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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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The Daily and Weekly Commercial—Newspaper Decisions.—1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Postoffice—whether directed to his name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for its payment.

2. If a person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the Publisher may continue to send it until payment is made and collect the whole amount whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

3. The Courts have decided that refusing to take Newspapers or Periodicals from the Postoffice, or removing and leaving them unclaimed for, is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud.

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FIRST EDITION.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

France.

THE ELECTORAL BILL ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY.

PARIS, November 30.—The Assembly to-day finally adopted the electoral bill by a vote of 532 to 87. The bill was amended so as to grant the right of representation to all colonies except Cayenne and Senegal. Urgency was almost unanimously voted for two proposals emanating respectively from the Right and Left Centers. One provides that general elections shall be held on February 20th, and the new Assembly convoked February 27th. The other fixes the elections for February 13th and the meeting of the Assembly for March 16th. A committee to examine the proposals will be appointed on Thursday.

Spain.

REPLY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED SATISFACTORY.

MADRID, November 30.—Mr. Cushing, the American Minister, will to-morrow present to the Minister of Foreign Affairs a telegraphic reply from his Government to the last Spanish note. The tenor of the American dispatch is considered very satisfactory and disperses the recent apprehensions.

MINISTERIAL CHANGES—MEETING OF THE CORTES.

The ministerial changes resolved upon in the Cabinet council of Saturday, and already announced, will take place on Thursday. The first day of February is appointed for the meeting of the Cortes.

PRESS OPINIONS.

The *Cronista* states that at the conference between Generals Jovellar, Campos and Quesada, at which the King was present, a plan of campaign in the North was agreed upon. It was decided that there should be a short delay in the commencement of operations on account of unfavorable weather. The *Epoca*, in an editorial article to-day, demonstrates the pressing necessity of a treaty of commerce and navigation between Spain and the United States, especially with regard to the commercial interests of Cuba.

England.

SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE OF FRENCH AND ENGLISH NAVAL OFFICERS.

LONDON, November 30, 6 A. M.—The *Standard* says that in consequence of the recent conference between the French and English commanding officers of the North American naval stations, it is hoped all sorts of causes caused by French interference in the New Foundland fisheries will be removed.

Marine News.

LONDON, November 30.—The steamships Egypt and City of Brooklyn, from New York, and Parthia, from Boston, have arrived out.

Foreign Notes.

Prince Gortschakoff arrived at Berlin yesterday.

The application of the Public Prosecutor to the Senate of the State Tribunal to indict Von Arnim for treason has been granted.

The amount of bullion gone into the Bank of England on balance, yesterday, was £130,000.

The Postal Conference meets at Berne, Switzerland, on the 17th of January. The Indian Government has announced its intention to join the Union.

The sessions of the Skuptchina reopened yesterday at Belgrade.

The St. Petersburg *Galos* says that the incessant raids on Russian territory prove the necessity for the occupation of the remainder of Khokand by the Russian troops.

LIBERIA.

Particulars of the Situation—Critical Position of the Government.

NEW YORK November 30.—News to the 21st of October has been received from Liberia, including an account of the battle of the 10th. The following is a synopsis of a letter from Monrovia to the Secretary of the Colonization Society here: All the inland settlements have been abandoned, and their inhabitants are at Caldwell. The greater portion of them have lost all. On the 10th instant our troops made an attack on a large native town, which is in sight of Harper, and were repulsed and retreated in disorder, several being killed and wounded, leaving in the hands of the enemy the brass field pieces, with ammunition, which were turned upon Latrobe. The troops will not likely renew the attack without cannon, and the Government is unable to maintain so large a force for any length of time. For them to leave would be for the enemy to overrun the country. The native coalition is both wide and deep, extending from Bassa, forty miles below Cape Palmas, between Grand Taboo and Berreby to windward of the Grebo territories. The treasury is empty, and the public credit wellnigh exhausted. It is said that English influence has been active in instigating the natives of Cape Palmas, and the arrival of every English steamer from the Doan coast brings to the enemy quantities of ammunition and guns.

THE LATE VICE PRESIDENT.

Mr. Wilson's Remains Lying in State at Natick—The Funeral to Take Place To-day.

NATICK, November 30.—The remains of the late Vice President lie in state in the Town Hall to-day, and notwithstanding the intense cold, large numbers of citizens have visited the place to take a last look at their honest townsman. The floral decorations are beautiful. The funeral services will take place at one o'clock to-morrow.

FIRE RECORD.

Fire at Wheeling — Washington Hall Burned—Loss $50,000.

WHEELING, November 30.—A fire broke out in Washington Hall, this city, between nine and ten o'clock this morning. The first floor was occupied by business houses, the goods of which were safely removed. The second floor was the hall proper, which was occupied at present by the Legislature of this State. The third floor was used as the Masonic Temple. The State papers which were in the hall were safely removed, and also the regalia and records of the Masonic fraternity from the third floor. The building is totally destroyed, excepting the fine floor, which is badly damaged both by fire and water. The bare walls alone are standing.

The fire originated in the roof, and is supposed to have caught from a defective flue. During the progress of the fire the third floor fell in, carrying with it two of the firemen and a man named J. Oliver, traveling for a Philadelphia house. The former sustained broken limbs, and the latter was so seriously injured that he has since died. The insurance is from $15,000 to $20,000. The loss will reach the neighborhood of $50,000.

Bellevue, Canada—$150,000.

BELLEVUE, CANADA, November 30.—The engine house at the Grand Trunk Railway station here was burned last night. Ten engines were destroyed. The other railway buildings were saved with difficulty. Loss $150,000; insured in English companies.

Oberlin, Ohio—$45,000.

TOLEDO, November 30.—A fire at Oberlin, Ohio, last night, destroyed two grocery stores and one book store, together with the contents. The loss is estimated at $45,000; insurance $1,000.

Lowell, Mass.—$50,000.

LOWELL, MASS., November 30.—A fire this morning in the Picker building of the Tremont and Suffolk corporation caused damage to the amount of $50,000; insured.

TELEGRAPHIC PERSONALS.

Sir George Bowen, Governor of Australia, and party, passed through Omaha yesterday morning, westward bound.

A London dispatch announces that Professor Thomas Hewitt Key is dead. He was mathematical professor in the University of Virginia in 1824.

It is reported on good authority that the President has now tendered the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs to ex-Congressman Wm. B. Upson, of Ohio.

General Joseph Holt, Judge Advocate of the army, has been retired upon his own application, and Assistant Judge Advocate General William McKee Dunn has been appointed to fill the vacancy, the appointment to date from December 1st. There will be no appointment of Assistant Judge Advocate General, Congress having passed a law at the last session providing for the abolition of that office when it should become vacant.

The Royal Geographical Society met again Monday night, and complimented Mr. Stanley for his successful African explorations. Speakers declared that there was nothing in the gift of the Society too high for his reward, and he deserved a reception on his return, like that accorded Speke and Grant in the old Burlington House, when they returned after the discovery of the Victoria N'yanza.

Rising Sun Flour
Is the best in use.

WOOSTER, OHIO.

Failures—The Water Works—Accident to Professor Wallace—The University.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.
WOOSTER, O., November 29, 1875.

Wooster still flourishes, though it is not free from occasional misfortune. The failure of McDonald & Co. is being fully developed, and its true inwardness becoming more and more apparent; the liabilities are now estimated at $710,000, the assets about $35,000. The failure of Donner, proprietor of a small store, to the tune of $10,000, may also be noted.

The water works are rapidly approaching completion, and will soon be in full blast. The water is to be supplied from a spring back of the University, and then farewell to fires.

Mr. W. W. Wallace, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, met with quite an accident on Thanksgiving evening. In his attempt to pass a stone quarry, on his return from a party in the country, he lost his footing and fell some thirty feet upon the hard, ragged rocks of the quarry. His jaws were both broken, his face gashed and his leg fractured in three places.

The University has a larger and better class of students than it has had since its foundation. The people are beginning to learn that Wooster, although new, is not behind any of the colleges of the West, and indeed, for hard study and good tuition, it may stand on a par with most of our Eastern colleges. The choice of Dr. Black between Washington and Wooster, the able works lately published by her professors, and her continually increasing number of students, are testimony to this fact. C.

STATE NEWS.

Reading raised sixty tons of grapes this year.

The scarlet fever is gradually disappearing in Reading.

Highwaymen are operating industriously in Clarion county.

David F. Young died suddenly in Lancaster, on the 27th, of apoplexy.

There are thirty-five churches in Reading, with a seating capacity of 28,000.

The appearance of the Philadelphia *Evening Telegraph* has been greatly improved by a new suit of type.

Mrs. Fanny Forrie, who lives eight miles from Lancaster, is 101 years old, and in full possession of all her faculties.

A new paper, to be called the *True Citizen*, is to be started in Brookville as the organ of the Prohibitionists.

Pleasing item of news from Hulmeville: "On Friday last the corn grown on the cemetery lot was sold at auction.

They "cure consumption" in Reading by giving the patients doses of oil made from dog fat, and feeding them on dog steak, fried.

While out gunning near Landisburg, Perry county, on Monday, Franklin Elicker was accidentally shot dead by a companion.

October 9th the oldest inhabitant of Bradford county, Abram Mace, died in his one hundredth year. He was buried at Monroeton.

William Marshall, one of the pioneers of Lycoming county, died in Anthony township on Thanksgiving day, aged seventy-seven years.

Since the decease of the Sunbury *Daily*, a new daily is to be started in that place by two young printers, Wm. F. Walsmith and Thomas Silvius.

Philip Ludig, one of the most skilful carpet-weavers in Lancaster, but a confirmed drunkard, hung himself in a cell of the station house there, on the 28th.

On Thursday morning Cyrus Lamborn, aged ninety-three years, a resident of Hamorton, was in West Chester doing business with all the vim of a man half his age.

The hog cholera is very bad along the Susquehanna, in the southern end of York county. Some have tried doctoring them, but in some instances they have died in their hands.

A Reading girl has just coughed up a shawl pin which she swallowed a year ago. The pin was an inch and three-quarters long, and gave her a great deal of trouble and pain.

A Doylestown young lady caught a tramp stealing things from her mother's clothes line. She didn't faint, but she coolly picked up a broomstick, and that tramp went away with a headache.

An aged couple, the husband eighty-three and the wife eighty-one years of age, have just been taken from Union City, where they have lived for seventy-seven years, to the Erie county poorhouse.

A man named Moon lays claim to about fifty acres of the ground upon which the village of Carmichaels, Green county, is built. The people there hope his pretensions will turn out to be all moonshine.

H. J. Waters, of the Lewistown, Mifflin county, *Sentinel*, is prepared to eulogize the memory of E. L. Benedict, a very wealthy citizen who recently died at that place and left the editor a bequest of $20,000.

While Lyman B. Brown, of Columbia county, was gathering shellbarks from a tree, he slipped and fell to the ground, a distance of twenty feet, breaking his back, from the effects of which he died. He was sixty-five years of age.

In a quarrel over a game of cards, at Johnstown on Monday, James Inscho stabbed and seriously wounded Martin V. Fry. The injured man had only recently been pardoned out of the penitentiary, whither he had been sent for bigamy.

A Quakertownman has solved Mrs. Livermore's query: "What shall we do with our daughters?" He has purchased two washing machines and will take in washing. His wife and seven daughters are to do the work and he will superintend the business.

Including 13 stillborn, there were 275 deaths in Philadelphia, last week—a decrease of ten from the previous week—and the total 95 were from diseases of the respiratory organs, 64 from congestion of the brain, debility 15, convulsions 14, old age 7; 148 were adults and 127 children.

Clarion's water works are now in operation, affording the citizens an ample supply. The water is pumped from the Clarion river to a reservoir on Seminary Hill, about five hundred feet above the stream, and thence distributed through pipes. The town is supplied with fire plugs.

James Kelley, aged sixty-five, was found dead at the foot of a precipice in Scranton, on Thanksgiving morning, and there are strong grounds for suspicion that he was the victim of foul play. A hard case named Jack Woolsey has been arrested for supposed complicity in the crime.

A young lady in Northumberland recently lost her canary bird, the songster having died very suddenly. On the following Sunday she wore the bird in her hat to church, but in a few days thereafter the canary had become too much decayed for an ornament and had to be taken off her head gear.

Miss Sarah Ann Cunningham, late of New London, Chester county, was connected with the postoffice of that village for the remarkable period of fifty years. She entered the office as clerk at the age of seventeen, continuing ten years. During this time her father was postmaster. In 1839 she was appointed postmistress, which position she filled until 1870, when she resigned.

The steel tire on one of the driving wheels of passenger engine No. 56, attached to the early train for Allentown, Friday morning, when near Bethlehem, Perkiomen Railroad, burst, and striking the foot board, near where the engineer stood, broke it into a thousand splinters. The hoop next bounded thirty feet up into the air, and came down in a field more than a hundred yards distant.

There died in Philadelphia, last week, fourteen persons, twelve women and two men, who had reached to or beyond eighty years of age, namely: Amelia Jackson, aged 81; John Mills, 82; Mary Little, 83; Susan Norny, 83; Mrs. I. A. Roby, 85; Sarah Cresswell, 85; Henry Faust, 86; Sarah Streeper, 88; Mary A. Williams, 88; Sallie Tustin, 90; Mary McWilliam, 90; Rose Anna Kelsh, 93; Margaret Hagan, 95, and Mary Lindsay, 96.

Somerset county furnishes a centenarian who retired from the scenes of earth a few days ago. Her name was Mrs. Jacob Martz, and she lived in Southampton township. The number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren of whom she was ancestor footed up one hundred and seventy-seven. The marriage of this lady took place in 1799, and she was in the one hundred and second year of her age at the time of her death.

An unknown man calling himself Wm. Stanley when he was sober, and Murray when he was drunk, deliberately drank himself to death at Trenton colliery, near Delano, Schuylkill county. He was found dead under an engine house. He was a free thinker, and carried tracks on free thought, was about forty years of age, had a very prominent forehead, large cheek bones, and heavy moustache and beard, was about five feet ten inches in height, rather slim in build, and wore a new suit of clothes. Nothing to prove his identity was found.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

Spanish Relations in the Cabinet.

Secretary Fish Still Wishes to Conciliate.

THE NATIONAL HONOR TO BE UPHELD.

Randall's Chances for the Speakership Improving.

Hosts of Applicants for the Minor Offices of the House

AID FOR LIBERIA

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
WASHINGTON, D. C., November 30, 1875.

The President's Message—Spanish Relations in the Cabinet.

The Cabinet session to-day lasted over three hours, almost the entire time being consumed in the reading of the President's message. It is understood that the portion touching our relations with Spain is left open, subject to certain contingencies which may grow out of the pending negotiations. The President has always favored a policy of firmness in dealing with Spain, and if carried out at the time the present condition of things would have been averted. Mr. Fish, whose son-in-law was and probably still is the agent of the Spanish Government, has always favored and put in practice a course of concession and forbearance till the conduct of Spain has become such that the national honor demands a different line of action. This is now being advanced. It is learned to-night from sources likely to be well informed that the difference of views has reached such a point that Secretary Fish threatens to resign if the present decided course be pressed. All officers on the active list of the navy have been ordered to their ships or assigned to duty. The accounts received at the Navy Department also report the monitor fleet and other vessels in satisfactory condition. The Secretary of the Navy says that he has his branch of the service on a footing equal to any emergency.

The Transportation of Petroleum.

The Secretary of the Treasury has now under consideration the subject of the transportation of petroleum. The present law is very deficient, as it does not fix the responsibility of carrying this explosive commodity in violation of law upon any one. The proposition before the Secretary is to require collectors at the ports to determine whether there is any other practicable route than by passenger steamer, and to give them discretionary power in the matter of shipment. The Secretary will probably send a telegram to this effect to the Collector of the port of New York to-morrow. This telegram will doubtless form the basis of a circular to the same effect.

The Speakership of the House—Randall's Chances Good.

The Speakership is coming up more prominently than ever to-day. The city is full of members and a legion of lean and seedy Democratic office hunters. Since the withdrawal of Wood, Randall's chances have improved. No new candidates for the Clerkship are announced to-day. The offices find applicants without number.

United States Vessel to be Sent to the Aid of Liberia.

It is understood that the Government has determined to dispatch a war vessel to the Liberian coast. The contest which has been going on between the natives and the Liberian republic is likely to end in the destruction of the latter unless the United States interferes. The English Government is said to be in active sympathy with the savages.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 30, 1875.

PROTESTS AT INTERNAL REVENUE CONSOLIDATIONS.

The avalanche of protests against the internal revenue consolidations continues and the Commissioner as well as the President are in daily receipt of telegrams, letters and personal application for a reconsideration of the plan. Thus far, however, only one change has been made in the programme, that being in Indiana, where General Frank White, of the Lafayette district, has been reinstated.

THE MEXICAN CATTLE RAIDS.

Information received here from the Rio Grande is to the effect that the troubles along there are growing out of cattle raids by the Mexicans are as bad as ever. Mexican raiders have a contract to deliver 18,000 head of cattle at Montery, and they expect to steal them from Texas. It has also been ascertained that one great difficulty under which the Mexican Government labors is that in sending soldiers to the frontier to prevent cattle raids, they stand idly by, poverty stricken themselves, thus adding to the number of depredators instead of decreasing them. The cattle thus far stolen from Texas are shipped after being run into Mexico. Cortina himself was detected some time ago in shipping cattle from Bagdad, a small town on the south bank of the Rio Grande, for Cuba, with the unfinished brands of Texan owners. It is also known that these cattle thieves are engaged to a great extent in smuggling goods into Texas and on their return trips carry droves of cattle with them.

OFFICE HOURS IN THE DEPARTMENTS.

At a meeting of the Cabinet to-day it was decided that from and after to-morrow, office hours in the several Executive departments of the Government shall be from nine A. M. until four P. M., and orders were issued to the heads of the various departments this afternoon to that effect.

BABCOCK PROTESTS INNOCENCE.

The following telegram was sent this afternoon by General Babcock to the United States Attorney at St. Louis:

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 30, 1875.
Hon. D. P. Dyer, United States District Attorney, St. Louis:

I am absolutely innocent, and every telegram which I sent will appear perfectly innocent the moment I can be heard. I demand a hearing before the court where I can testify.

[Signed] A. E. BABCOCK.

CONTESTS FOR SEATS IN THE HOUSE.

The following is a correct list of the contests for seats in the House of Representatives: Alabama—Bromberry vs. Haralson; Florida—Finley vs. Walls; Illinois—Lemerine vs. Farwell; Louisiana—Spencer vs. Morey and Breux vs. Darroll; Massachusetts—Abbott vs. Frost; Minnesota—Cox vs. Comstrait; New York—Lowry vs. Norton; South Carolina—Lee vs. Rainey, Butts vs. Luckey; Virginia—Platt vs. Goode; Idaho Territory—Fern vs. Bennett; Utah Territory—Basken vs. Carmon.

THE WHISKY TRIALS.

Another Dispatch from Babcock—Testimony all in in the Avery Case.

ST. LOUIS, November 30.—The prosecution in the Avery case closed to-day by the introduction of some testimony of a general character, and the following telegram:

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 5, 1874.
Colonel John A. Joyce, St. Louis:

Cannot hear that anyone has gone, or is going.

[Signed] BABCOCK.

A somewhat lengthy discussion then took place, Judge Krum for the defense contending that three counts of the indictment against his client were insufficient, and should be quashed, General Henderson for the prosecution replied and admitted that one of the counts was insufficient, but maintained that the others were good and binding upon the defendant.

The Court sustained Judge Krum's position as to two counts, and said that he should instruct the jury to return a verdict of not guilty as to them. The other counts were held to be good, and the defense then proceeded with their side, by introducing three letters of a social character, which had passed between Joyce and Avery, and tending to show that they were in the habit of using such familiar terms as "Billy" and "Alick," Joyce's middle name, and Avery's Christian name, in writing to each other. The depositions of persons in Washington, relating to the good character of Avery were also read. This done, Judge Krum announced that to be the case for the defense. The argument will be heard to-morrow.

BINGHAM TRANSFERRED TO INDIANA.

In the United States District Court today, a motion was made by the Government to transfer John W. Bingham, who stands indicted here for complicity in the whisky frauds and has pleaded guilty, to the United States District Court of Indiana, where a similar indictment awaits him. General Noble, counsel for Bingham, made a long argument against the transfer, but Judge Treat decided that Bingham should be sent to Indiana, and the Court so ordered.

Rising Sun Flour
Will please your most particular customer.

THE INDIAN POLICY.

General Pope's Report—Outspoken Condemnation of the Present System—False Position of the Army.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 30.—The report of Brevet Major General John Pope, commanding the Department of the Missouri, after reviewing at some length the campaigns against the hostile Indians in the department during the past year says: "All bands of Indians in the Southwest—Cheyennes and Arapahoes, Kiowas and Comanches—are now at their respective agencies, brought there by military force after a campaign of eight months of almost unprecedented hardship and exposure, and after a heavy expense to the Government. They are brought there, too, entirely subdued and in such condition and under such circumstances that there is not the least danger, in my opinion, of any further trouble with them, if only they are treated with common humanity, and dealt with in even ordinary honesty. Unless they are properly fed they must either suffer the pangs of hunger or starve to death. To see that they are cared for, as the Government as well as humanity demands, and as the usual appropriations of Congress provides for, is a duty devolved upon another department of the Government. If honestly performed in the future, as I am sorry to believe it has not been in the past, further troubles with these Indians may be considered at an end." Referring to feeding Indians he says: "It is presumed, though without positive knowledge, that the appropriations made by Congress if honestly disbursed and judiciously distributed will be sufficient for this purpose, and I cannot, in view of the peace of this frontier and honor and good faith of the Government, too strongly urge that this subject be closely looked after, and that measures more vigorous and efficient than those hitherto pursued be adopted and enforced without delay. The military forces have done, and done well, all they have the right or power to do, and cannot and ought not to be held in any manner accountable for any further hostilities with these Indians due to bad treatment and want of food at the agencies, to which they have been forced to return and where they now are. It is with painful reluctance that the military forces take the field against Indians who only leave their reservations because they are starved there and who must hunt food for themselves and their families or see them perish with hunger. It is revolting to any humane man to see such things done and far more to be required to be the active party to commit violence upon the forlorn Indians, who, under the pressure of such necessity, only do what any man would do under like circumstances. I desire to say with all emphasis, what every army officer on the frontier will corroborate, that there is no class of men in this country who are so disinclined to war with Indians as the army stationed among them. The army has nothing to gain by war with Indians. On the contrary, it has everything to lose. In such a war it suffers all the hardships and privations and, exposed as it is to the charge of assassination, if Indians are killed, to the charge of inefficiency if they are not, to misrepresentation by the agents who fatten on the plunder of the Indians, and to misunderstanding by worthy people at a distance, who are deceived by these very agents, the soldier has little to expect from public feeling. Nevertheless he is so placed under the present arrangements and orders that he has no power whatever on the Indian reservations to redress or prevent the wrongs which drive the Indians to war. On the contrary, at the demand of the very agent whose unfair dealing with the Indians has brought on the difficulty, he is obliged to pursue and force back to same deplorable state and place the Indians whom he knows to have been wronged and who have only in part done substantially what he would have done himself under like provocation. Such a relation to Indian affairs and Indian agents is unjust and unfair to the army, and a serious injury both to the interests of the Government and the wellbeing of the Indians. All posts in the department require some and several of them quite extensive repairs. He expresses the opinion that the maintenance of small posts is inexpedient, and says it is not necessary for the defensive, aggressive duty required of troops, it greatly increases expense and it is a positive injury to the discipline and efficiency of the troops themselves.

GENERAL SCHOFIELD'S REPORT.

The report of Major General Schofield, commanding the military division of the Pacific, after referring to the improvements, changes, transfers of troops, &c., made at several posts, recommends that camp Halleck, Nevada, be gradually enlarged and improved as the funds at the disposal of the War Department may justify, until it is capable of accommodating three companies, under a field officer. The General says: "It is with much reluctance that I have been forced to the relief that the transfer of the Indian Bureau to the War Department is a necessity of the public service. The events of the past few years have demonstrated the utter inability of the civil department of the Government to maintain the necessary control over the undivided Indians. The effort to control through civil means while at peace on their reservations and then turn them over to the army when they leave their reservations or commit acts of hostility, has proved as might have been expected—a most efficient mode of producing war. The officers of the army are compelled to stand idly by, powerless for good, while their promises to the Indians made at the termination of the previous hostilities, are being violated and wisdom and justice and common honesty disregarded in the daily treatment of the helpless savage, who has no possible means of redress but escape from the reservation where life is made intolerable. Then the army is called upon to pursue the Indians, force them back on their reservations, and punish them for disobedience. Thus a war is inaugurated which could not have happened if the Indians had been under military control. It is an entire mistake to suppose that the proposed transfer of the Indian Bureau necessarily means a departure from the "Peace Policy." That policy which is the dictate alike of wisdom, justice and humanity, which has been adopted by the present Executive, is not likely to be abandoned by any of his successors, and under the influence of new surroundings. Military management means simply more economical, just, uniform and consistent execution of the executive will, and more permanency in the mode of dealings with Indians through the agency of the life tenure of officers, who have spent most of their active lives among the Indians, who know their character and wants, and who have every possible motive for dealing with them wisely and justly. It seems to do away with constant fluctuation of policy, the continual disturbance of pre-existing arrangements and frequent disregard of treaties and promises which have led many Indians to an almost total disbelief in the faith of the Government. Military management means peace and security, giving room and opportunity for the labors of the Christian missionaries to civilize and instruct the savage tribes. Let these worthy philanthropists be relieved from the responsibility and contamination of more worldly matters. Their influence for good cannot thereby be diminished."

The Moody-Sankey Meetings at Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, November 30.—The depot building was about two-thirds full to-night. Mr. Moody announced the opening hymn, after singing which Rev. Mr. Hendrickson prayed. Then Mr. Sankey sang by request the 46th hymn. Following this Mr. Moody made an announcement that in order to accommodate persons from the country, the evening meeting at half past seven o'clock would be dispensed with on and after Thursday, the hour of noon being substituted therefor. Mr. Moody then read a lesson from the Scriptures and after a few remarks requested the audience to join in silent prayer. Mr. Moody then prayed for those who had presented themselves as applicants for prayers, after which the meeting closed. The attendance in the inquiry rooms was not as large as usual. The fathers' meeting and young men's prayer meeting were well attended to-night.

Daring Attempt of Convicts to Break Jail.

JEFFERSONVILLE, IND., November 30.—John Edwards, Clayton N. Barr and Geo. W. Lewis, three convicts, attempted to escape from the penitentiary last night. They were locked in the upper range of the cell-house, it being covered with stone slabs. They raised the slabs, affecting an entrance to the garret between the cell-house and the roof, making a hole through the gable end of the cell-house; and while in the act of descending by a chain they had secured for that purpose, they were discoved by the inside guard, and fired upon without effect. An alarm being sounded, the convicts surrendered. The efficient and thorough discipline and management that Captain Howard, the warden, has effected among the guards as well as among the convicts is calculated to baffle all future attempts of the prisoners to escape.

A Pottsville dispatch of yesterday says: Last night at Buckville colliery in Tuscarora, an accident occurred by the sudden breaking off of the chain attached to the hoisting wagon, which was being let down into the mines to haul the men up. The wagon came down with great force, instantly killing Hugh Sharp and Patrick McIntyre, and badly wounding other miners.

THE COLD SNAP.

Opening of the Winter Season—Closing of Canals and Rivers—Disasters on the Lakes.

FURTHER PARTICULARS OF THE LAKE HURON STORM—VESSELS WRECKED.

DETROIT, November 30.—The gale of Sunday and Monday proved even more destructive on the lakes than was at first supposed. Associated press dispatches today from Sheboygan report the total loss, a short distance south of Duncan, of the fine schooner Mary E. Perew, and narrow escape of the crew. The vessel was deck under, and the rigging a solid mass of ice. They were rescued by a boat's crew from Sheboygan. The schooners Granda, Sweetheart and Francis Palms were also ashore in the same vicinity; the former is probably a total loss. The schooner Bridgewater, with a cargo of wheat, is ashore and full of water at Waugoshance, in a dangerous position. The brig Poseus is at Point Le Barbe with her canvas all gone. The schooner St. Lawrence, with a cargo of coal, became unmanageable on Sunday night on account of the rigging being covered with ice, and went ashore near the south point of Lake Huron, but with favorable weather will be released.

Lake Huron is covered with ice as far as can be seen. A dispatch from Sault Ste. Marie says that it is snowing there, with a light north wind; thermometer seventeen degrees below zero last night, with ice forming in river. The river is rapidly closing and it is impossible for boats to get through the canal. The steamers St. Paul, Missouri and boats and the Norman were reported frozen in at Mud Lake yesterday.

MILFORD, PA., November 30.—The thermometer indicated two degrees above zero at seven A. M. The Delaware river is frozen over.

BOSTON, November 30.—Unprecedented cold weather for this season is reported from all sections of New England north and east of here, the mercury ranging from four to fourteen degrees below zero.

POUGHKEEPSIE, November 30.—The Hudson river is frozen from Hudson to Albany. The thermometer this morning is at zero.

PORT JERVIS, November 30.—Navigation on the Delaware and Hudson Canal is closed from Honesdale to Ellenville. All the loaded boats will reach tidewater to-day, when the canal will be closed for the season.

ALBANY, November 30.—The navigation of the canal and river is closed. The river is full of ice. The thermometer ranged two to eight degrees below zero all day.

OSWEGO, N. Y., November 30.—The schooner P. G. Jenkins, with wheat from Milwaukee for this port, left the Welland Canal yesterday forenoon, and as she has not been heard from, it is feared that she has foundered in the late gale, with all on board.

CHICAGO, November 30.—About forty vessels are ashore on Lake Michigan in a more or less disabled condition. The recent storms have proved disastrous to shipping, though few lives have been lost on the lakes.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, November 30, 1875.

CONDITION OF CHARLES O'CONOR—LITTLE HOPE FOR HIS RECOVERY.

Charles O'Conor yesterday was able to take a little nourishment, his stomach not rejecting food as on previous days. For four days before Sunday he had been so weak that water was the only thing which his system would retain. The precise nature of his disease has not been determined, but it is thought to be paralysis of the stomach. His physicians thought last night there was no doubt but that he would live until to-day, and this evening they will be able to say what the probabilities are of his recovery. There is little hope, however, that he will get well, and his advanced age greatly diminishes the prospects of his restoration to health.

THE SAVINGS BANKS EXCITEMENT.

There is still a little excitement among the depositors in the savings banks, and a slight run was made to-day on the Franklin Savings Bank, which has plenty of money and is paying everybody as fast as possible. A run commenced yesterday on the Seventh Ward Savings Bank continued to-day, but there was less anxiety among depositors, who were promptly paid.

RUMORS OF TROUBLE WITH SPAIN.

Orders have been received at the Brooklyn Navy Yard to place ten more monitors in commission, and various naval renderezvous throughout the country have been instructed to enlist available men of all grades. It is reported that the Government used the cable wires for some hours this forenoon in the transmission of dispatches between Secretary Fish and Minister Cushing at Madrid. Rumor added that Spain has remonstrated against the United States Government permitting the sale of Cuban bonds in this country, claiming that their issue here is a violation of the treaty obligations.

Revolt of the Apache Indians.

ST. LOUIS, November 30.—The *Republican's* Kansas City special says that advices from Denver report that troops have been ordered from Forts Lincoln and Union to the vicinity of Cimmaron, New Mexico, where the Apache Indians had revolted some ten days ago. It appears that some of the Apache chiefs refused to take the rations offered by the Government agent, and, after some words, the Indian drew a revolver and shot the agent through the head. The affair caused great excitement and after the Indian was placed in irons the rest of the tribes made general disturbance. There are grave fears that a general outbreak of the Apaches and Utes will take place, and much anxiety is felt.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Probabilities for To-Day.—For the Ohio Valley, falling barometer, east to south winds, warmer generally and clear weather. For the Lake region, falling and stationary barometer, easterly to southeasterly winds, warmer and partly cloudy weather, and probably rain or snow, possibly followed in the northwest by rising barometer and cold northwesterly winds. For the Middle States, high but falling barometer, winds veering to the northeast and southeast, slightly warmer and partly cloudy weather, possibly followed in the forenoon by occasional light snow or rain. The Ohio river will continue to fall except at Paduach.

Jacob Graff, an old citizen of Cincinnati, widely known, died yesterday. He was born in Philadelphia in 1802.

W. W. Scarborough, of Cincinnati, one of the trustees of the Southern Railroad, resigned yesterday, being about to visit Europe.

Senator Logan is lying at the Palmer House, in Chicago, in a somewhat precarious condition, being affected with acute rheumatism of the brain.

The steam yacht Ariadne, from Erie, Pa., for the Gulf, passed Memphis yesterday, down the Mississippi river, having left Erie October 14th and Chicago October 30th.

Elections yesterday in Omaha on the question of voting bonds to a narrow gauge road, was quite warmly contested and resulted in the defeat of the bonds by about five hundred majority.

A Portsmouth, New Hampshire, dispatch says that the activity at the Navy Yard increases and an extra force will be taken on to-morrow. The United States steamer Marion will go into commission in a few days.

The grocery, commission and produce merchants of Memphis have organized a Board of Trade, which met for the first time yesterday. The following are the officers: President, John K. Speed, of S. A. Clarke & Co.; Secretary, Thomas Estes, of Estes & Co.; Treasurer, F. Lewis Warner, of Warner & Co.

A dispatch from Tucson, Arizona, confirms the defeat of the Sonora revolutionists in a fight at Alta. Three officers and twenty-four men were killed and wounded. Seventy-six hundred horses and other property was captured. The revolutionists made Tucson their headquarters and enlisted many men there.

The official census of St. Paul, Minnesota, was completed yesterday, showing a population of 33,237. The officially reported population of Minneapolis is 32,720. The two cities being only four miles apart, there is a project on foot looking to their consolidation. One is the commercial center and the other the manufacturing center.

The Railroad Passenger and Freight Conductors' Mutual Aid and Benefit Association of the United States and Canada met in its second annual session at Chicago yesterday, J. G. Sherman, its President, in the chair. The membership has increased rapidly during the past year, being now about five hundred. The finances are in good condition.

Boys and girls will probably be sweet on that new Philadelphia paper, the *Confectioners' Journal*.

The Register's Report.

The monthly report of Register Gray shows twenty-four wills admitted to probate, and letters granted in eighteen estates. Among the letters were the following: Letters to T. P. and Howard Hartley, on the estate of Robert H. Hartley; bond in $170,000. Letters to Wm. McClurg, on the estate of J. M. McClurg; bond in $50,000. The bonds in the other cases are comparatively small.

Rising Sun Flour
Is not musty and does not run.

NO
RISING SUN FLOUR!
TO-DAY.
15 CARS, BAGS,
To arrive this week. Orders will be filled in their turn fast as the Flour arrives.
F. W. JENKINS & BRO.,
SOLE AGENTS.

GREAT REDUCTION IN PRICES,
TO HELP MEN AND BOYS TO PROCURE
SUITS AND OVERCOATS,
FOR HOLIDAYS.
STRASSBURGER & JOSEPH.
161 Federal Street, Allegheny.

OHIO NEWS.

Urbana has a population of 6,776.

One ditch under construction in Wood county will cost $25,000.

Cleveland won two out of the three telegraphic chess games with Youngstown.

There were 735 arrests made by the Cleveland police force during the month of October.

The Gambier *Argus* denies that Bishop Bedell has changed his residence from Gambier to Cleveland.

The Odd Fellows' lodge room at Mount Blanchard was broken open last Thursday night week, and $203 05 in currency stolen.

A Youngstown fellow ate nine dozen and seven oysters at one sitting, the other day, and then went home and topped off with a beefsteak.

The Commercial.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1875.

THE export movement in breadstuffs from Philadelphia last week amounted to 147,664 bushels. The total breadstuffs exportation from that port during the year aggregates 6,882,676 bushels.

THE effect of the whisky break-down in securing a better collection of the revenue is now telling on the receipts from month to month. The collections for November were at the rate of one hundred and twenty millions for the fiscal year.

ONE of the arguments used by the *Post* in recommending BLACK for the Presidency, is that his good advice has been unheeded by the administrations of the last sixteen years." CHORPENNING has headed his advice for more than sixteen years, and has not got his money yet.

THERE is at least one paper in the United States that wants JERRY BLACK for President, but not another to even second the motion of the Pittsburgh *Post*.—*Titusville Herald*.

CHORPENNING seconds it. He would be sure of his claim if he could get his attorney into the Presidency.

THE Cincinnati *Enquirer* says that the views of JERE BLACK on the finance issue will be interesting, since he has been named for the Presidency. Mr. BLACK expressed them to a New York *World* interviewer during the late campaign. He is a hard-money Democrat; but he will take greenbacks in payment of the Chorpenning claim.

THE Dayton (Ohio) *Journal* sincerely condoles with Judge BLACK, of this State, in the misfortune which has overtaken him of being trotted out as the *Post's* Democratic candidate for the Presidency. The matter is hardly worth noticing. It will be early enough to discuss his chances when he succeeds in getting the malodorous CHORPENNING smell out of his clothes.

IN CONNECTION with the very elaborate preparatiops to observe the funeral of Vice President WILSON in Baltimore, it is a suggestive fact that some of the men in the organizations which took especial pains to honor his memory, were actually engaged in the attack upon the Massachusetts troops in 1861. How true it is that—

"Men may rise on stepping stones
Of their dead selves, to higher things."

SPEAKING of the movement now on foot for the discontinuance of stamps on bank checks, the Boston *Traveller* calls attention to the fact that banking institutions do about the best business that is done in the country, prospering greatly, while almost every other kind of business is very much depressed, and asks: "Why should they be specially favored?" We give it up.

THE Rochester *Democrat* makes a ringing argument for the adoption of a Constitutional amendment which shall put it out of the power of local school boards to divert the school funds to the uses of any religious denomination, and says: "Until this is done, our common school system is not safe." Correct. But would not an amendment to the National Constitution, making common school education wholly secular in its scope, be productive of still more desirable results?

THE news that England has purchased a controlling interest in the Suez Canal appears to be creating no little interest at Washington. It is generally thought that it marks the beginning of a new era in the development for Great Britain. If this be so, it becomes a matter of all the greater importance that the United States take speedy action to carry out the proposed plan of the Darien ship canal, in order to prevent any foreign power from coming in and reaping the honor and profit of this great enterprise.

THE New Hampshire impracticables are already in the field with a Prohibitory ticket. They would do well to profit by the example which the late Vice President WILSON set during the recent canvass in Massachusetts. Although a Prohibitionist in principle, he held, and gave the strongest possible attestation of his belief, that no issue should be permitted to imperil a Republican success at the present time. If the temperance people of New Hampshire are desirous of deserving the good opinion of the best classes of their fellow citizens throughout the country, they will try to emulate the breadth and comprehension which marked his course in this matter.

THE statistics of the distribution of the Ohio school fund reflect curiously upon the intelligence of the Democratic party in that State. Thirty-eight counties pay more for the school fund into the State Treasury than they draw out again, while fifty draw out more than they pay in. Of the latter, thirty-two voted Democratic at the last election, and only eighteen Republican. In other words, there are thirty-two Democratic counties which require outside aid in the work of educating their children, and but eighteen Republican counties that require similar aid; while of the thirty-eight counties which afford this aid and fully support their own schools besides, twenty-five are Republican, and only thirteen Democratic.

HERE is a little incident in the life of Vice President WILSON, which is not generally known. When JOHN BROWN made his reckless raid upon Virginia soil, Mr. WILSON was very despondent for the success of the anti-slavery cause. Entering a certain Boston newspaper office he asked for the latest news from Virginia. He was shown the dispatches detailing the particulars of the raid. "It will irredeemably hurt the abolition cause," he said, "people will not understand it. We shall never recover from the blow." They did, however. There are some men in the world who, the more you hang them, the more they won't die. JOHN BROWN was one of these. No sooner had the war begun than he got right up out of his coffin as full of life and vigor as any of them, took his place at the head of the Union troops, and performed the part of drum major of Liberty to the end of the war.

ONE of the most prominent iron manufacturers and dealers in iron ore in the country, who has lately returned from a prolonged visit to Europe, made for the purpose of practically investigating the condition of trade in that quarter, states that everybody in England with whom he had occasion to talk about our tariff assured him that it was the great obstacle to any revival of the trade in steel with this country. He believes that England will impose a protective tariff in less than ten years, and thinks that a revival of business at home is a great deal nearer than many people anticipate. His views, as reported in the *Bulletin of the Iron and Steel Association*, are:

"That for two years all business has been marked by absence of speculation—a hopeful sign that the revival will come, when it does come, with light stocks; that thousands of miles of railways begun before the panic will be finished by somebody that there will be in 1876 the greatest movement of the people over railways and by steamers, and the most active circulation of money, since 1873; and that a large amount of specie will be brought from abroad by visitors to the Centennial which will be left in the country."

AN enterprising Bostonian, who has practically given his life to the study of railroading, and who has examined nearly all the roads in this country and in Europe, has recently concluded a series of experiments in narrow-gauge railroad building the results of which, he holds, are destined to create a revolution in the construction of railroads. He claims to have demonstrated that a road with a gauge of twenty or twenty-four inches is all-sufficient for all railroad purposes, and that the practicability of introducing excessively narrow-gauge railroads in places where common railroads can not be built at all, or could not be operated at all, is beyond dispute. Towns all through Massachusetts can, he maintains, easily and cheaply and profitably connected with each other, and with main lines of railroad, by utilizing his plan. His road, he says, can be built so cheaply that it can be made to reach, by winding round hills, even to the highest settlements in the mountains. He estimates that, with the narrowest gauge system, a road from any town to a railway can be built and equipped with rolling stock for $5,000 a mile. In the West especially, where the towns are widely separated, a railroad that could be built on the comparatively level ground of the prairies for $2,500 to $5,000 per mile, could not fail to be universally adopted, and prove a great benefit to the people. The proof of the pudding is in the eating, however.

BUSINESS IN OUR CRIMINAL COURTS.

We ask the special and close attention of the reader to the facts presented, to-day, in the communication of Judge WHITE. It refers to a subject which cannot longer be ignored, and it puts forth an array of facts that may, without exaggeration, be considered as appalling. Certainly no thoughtful man can read them without feeling shamed by the exhibit and terrified by the prospect which they hold out for the future.

There can be no question that the Grand Jury in this county (and presumably in the other large counties also) is overloaded with work, and that it cannot, with such a mass of complaints before it, become a Grand Inquest as to all of them. It must of necessity slight many of them, and it cannot give proper attention to any. The remedy for this is to be found in limiting its inquiries to crimes above the grade of larceny, leaving the rest to be heard and tried by petit juries exclusively. This, we are sure, will be found to work well in practice, and will certainly do away with the iniquity of multiplying indictments before the Grand Jury and putting the innocent prosecutors thereof into the costs.

A second, and we think the chief, remedy for most of the evils complained of by Judge WHITE is in *the complete abolition of costs in criminal cases before magistrates*. This is a radical remedy we admit; but none other is adequate. The great temptation to the *manufacture* of criminal cases (and we feel sure that "manufacture" is the right word in this instance) is the costs. Magistrates and constables encourage and stimulate complaints for the sake of the harvest of costs they will reap from them, and one complaint often serves to make several cases for court out of the same offense. The costs, in all these cases, are the incentives to action of those who carry on a sort of legal barratry in promoting vexatious litigation. Abolish the costs and you abolish the temptation to this practice. The courts, we venture to say, would not be pestered with the hundreds of petty suits which now annoy them if there were no legal reward for encouraging them.

How, then, we hear some one inquire, shall crime be repressed and criminals be brought to justice? By paying specific salaries to a limited number of magistrates and constables, whose time shall be specially devoted to the business of arresting and hearing those who are charged with offenses against the law. There need not be a great number of them; and they will have no interest in making or in multiplying cases.

The county, now, pays nearly all the costs that are paid in criminal cases, and she would be a gainer by the change in many ways. It would cost less, in compensation paid to magistrates and officers; jurors and witnesses would cost less; the jail and the Workhouse would cost less; and the courts would be pestered less with petty cases, thus giving them more time or more pressing business.

We have no faith, we may add, in police courts, as a remedy for existing evils. They might relieve the pressure upon the other courts, but they would not strike at the root of the wrongs complained of. We do not want more courts, but something that will effectually cut off the petty business with which they are now loaded down.

As any law sufficiently broad to cope with the evils mentioned by Judge WHITE must be a general one, there will probably be a difficulty in getting it enacted; but the justice of the remedies herein proposed is so plain that we cannot conceive a refusal of it possible. It is the boast of the law that every wrong has its remedy; and the Legislature cannot refuse a remedy so wise and so necessary as the one proposed. Of course, it will take time to mature the needed legislation; but in the meanwhile the subject, as Judge WHITE has presented it, is worthy of an attended and thorough discussion. "Men and brethren, think of these things;" and the more you think about them the more anxious you will be to see that the proper action follows your thoughts.

BOGUS CIRCULARS.

The Chamber of Commerce very properly warns country merchants, who deal with this city, against putting their confidence in bogus commission houses, who send out lying circulars which misquote the market and otherwise mislead the public.

This caution is very good, in itself; but how are country merchants to know whether the circulars they receive are from bogus houses or not? There is nothing in the circulars themselves to put the recipient of them on their guard, nor is there anything on the face of the quotations there given to indicate that they are deceptive. Unless country merchants have other knowledge to guide them, they cannot be expected to be able to distinguish, from the face of the circulars, the genuine from the false, or the bogus from the true.

The original error consists in going outside of well-conducted newspapers for commercial information. The state of the market is to be learned from the papers which make it their business to report commercial transactions. Circulars may in some cases give fuller details than the papers in special branches of trade; but, as a general rule, they set forth nothing, as to prices, that cannot be had as well in the columns of the daily press. We have not a word to say against the regularly issued circulars of well-established houses; but we are justified in claiming that a well-conducted daily newspaper, which gives proper attention to commercial matters, is as reliable as any other source of information, and much more so than any of those which challenge commercial confidence.

We employ four persons constantly in gathering up news and figures for our commercial and financial columns, and bestow special pains on the efforts to make our quotations correct. No country merchant need fear being misled by bogus circulars or otherwise, if he will take the COMMERCIAL, and keep himself posted as to commercial affairs. The bogus commission men do not impose easily upon men of that class. They are constantly on their guard against fraud, and the knowledge they acquire by their daily perusal of our commercial columns keeps them too well posted to be victimized by the PETER FUNKS of the commission trade.

We supplement the caution of the Chamber of Commerce, therefore, by saying to country merchants, "Take the DAILY COMMERCIAL." That will keep you well advised of what is going on, and the lying circulars will not long be sent to men who know too much to be imposed upon by them. The daily press is the legitimate medium for circulating the daily news, commercial and otherwise, and no country merchant can be safe who does not take a trustworthy daily paper.

THIRD TERM.

We regret to see so able and intelligent a journal as the Pittsburgh *Gazette* wasting space and time in long editorial articles advocating the nomination and election of President Grant for a third term. Surely the Liberal and Democratic organs have given the country quite enough of this issue, and the tide of public sentiment on the subject was sufficiently indicated by the elections of 1874 and the reactionary majority in Congress. The loss of twenty-seven States in one campaign is rather a high price to pay for such a piece of amusement as that, and now that we have undone much of the mischief this ill-timed provoking to have the thing come up again in this way. The *Gazette* of course has a right to its opinion, but the voice of Pennsylvania has been pronounced so sweepingly in her State Conventions against a third term, that this sort of effort of distraction comes with an ill grace at a time when we need all our forces to prepare to fight the enemy in Congress and in the next ensuing elections. The discussion seems to us about as useful as a last year's fashion plate. As for attempting to carry Pennsylvania for it, we might about as well whistle jigs to a milestone and expect it to dance.—*Philadelphia North American*.

The *North American*, like the *Gazette*, got the postoffice advertisement to publish; but did not, as a consequence, feel itself bound to support the third term as an equivalent for the advertisement.

General Sheridan, in his annual report, alludes somewhat tersely and significantly to the Department of the Gulf, saying: "Last winter, when the department came under my jurisdiction, I thought it best to call a halt in a forcible way on much of the lawlessness then rampant in Louisiana, which action brought the attention of the Government and the law-abiding and good people of the country to a growing and dangerous evil. Peace has been the result, and prosperity, I hope, will follow." The facts seem to justify the General's inference.

Concerning the engagement of a pastor by a church in Kentucky, a member writes: "We have secured his services for the ensuing year at the salary of $100, and are looking forward for great blessings!" They need 'em.

CALDWELL, O.

Conviction of Father Ryan—An Interview with Him—Motion for a New Trial—His Present Condition—Lodged in Jail.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

CALDWELL, O., November 29, 1875.

Father Ryan is now in jail here, awaiting the decision of the Court on a motion for a new trial. If that decision is adverse, then nothing remains but for Judge Frazier to sentence him to the penitentiary.

I visited Father Ryan in his cell on Sunday, and found him able to sit up and converse very agreeably. When I entered his cell he was reading Disraeli's "Quarrels and Calamities of Authors." He laid it down and took up the COMMERCIAL of Saturday, which contained my report of his trial.

He read it with anxious interest, as it was the first published account he had yet seen of his trial. He said he was glad I had taken the trouble to report it so fully, because he desired the public to know with what diabolical and sectarian malice he had been persecuted, and that my publication completely vindicated him. I told him that my only purpose in reporting the case for the COMMERCIAL was to furnish its readers a brief but accurate report of a trial of national interest, in advance of all papers outside of Ohio; that this was my only object.

I was present on Friday night, late, when the verdict came in. Though it was late and a very dark and stormy night, the room was crowded as soon as the bell rang to announce the jury ready to deliver the verdict. As the verdict was rendered, the pallor of death spread over Father Ryan's face, and he would have dropped down when the foreman pronounced the terrible word "Guilty," if Father Shellhommer, a priest, had not seized him in his arms. He was removed from the court room and kindly permitted to remain in the parlor of the Warner House that night, as the attending physician stated that his immediate removal to jail would endanger his life, in his nervous and prostrate condition.

The doomed man sobbed and moaned on his bed all night, refusing opiates and taking copious draughts of spirits frumenti. The attending physician remained up with him all night, as also did Messrs. Foreman and Spriggs, his counsel, all weeping together. At day break, after this fearful night of watching, Mr. Foreman, his faithful friend and counsellor, was informed by telegraph that his father was dead, and he had to leave the suffering priest to attend his own father's funeral. And this is why the motion for a new trial was not argued and decided on Saturday. It is postponed till Mr. Foreman returns from his father's funeral, some time this week.

Saturday, all day, the priest was almost frantic with raging fever, and his pulse at nine o'clock ran up to 160. His life was despaired of, but fortunately, by the use of narcotics, sleep was induced, and after a few hours' rest the priest awoke much refreshed. The fever abated, he became calmer, and resigned himself to his fate, and voluntarily walked into the jail without any compulsion. On entering his cell he fell on his knees and for a few moments, clasping his hands and lifting his pallid face toward heaven, he remained in silent prayer; then rising, he bade his friend, Father Shellhommer, an affectionate adieu, the door was fastened and Father Ryan was alone with his God in a felon's cell.

He is a very engaging and genial man, but forty-five years old, in the very vigor of manhood. He is, apparently, conscious of no crime, and feels himself to be a martyr for the Catholic religion and a victim of religious hate and rancor; and under this honest though mistaken conviction he resigns himself to his fate with a martyr's undaunted courage and devotion. D.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

"The tides of life uneven flow,
And ever betwixt weal and woe
We drift, and never to and fro
Because the gods will have it so.

"I see the great ones prostrate lie,
I see the beggar lifted high,
And none his destined fate can fly,
And all is over-ruled by fate."

Two of the Vokes sisters, upon their return to this country, will appear in the new role of married folks.

A sound appointment. Theodore Thomas has been appointed musical director of the Centennial Exhibition.

Randall and Cox are said to con-Kerr in their opposition to the Indiana candidate for Speaker of the House.

Says the Chicago *Journal*: "Lunacy runs by periods." Not always. With the *Post* it never comes to a period.

The salaries of our Street Commissioners considerably exceed the value of the mud they get away with annually.

There is five million dollars' worth of music in the air in New York, in the shape of that proposed College of Sound.

A Missourian named Cash has sued a neighbor, named Poett, to collect a debt, the latter being a-verse to paying it.

The present population of the cities of Washington and Georgetown is estimated by the Bureau of Statistics at 145,000.

Epitaph for Astor, the poor man who died worth a hundred millions dollars:

What I spent I had;
What I kept I lost;
What I gave I have.

Now does the ferocious pancake, followed by the soothing syrup, begin to make its appearance upon the well-regulated breakfast table.

Joyce, who still wears his stripes with the proud consciousness of injured innocence, is now head bookkeeper of the Missouri Penitentiary.

The boundaries of Baltimore are to be extented northward two miles beyond the present line, so as to include the grounds of the Hopkins University.

The new Master of the National Grange is Judge John T. Jones, of Arkansas, whose wife was at the same time elected to the mysterious office of Ceres.

"The last end of that man shall be worse than the first." Brick Pomeroy will shortly begin the publication of a weekly paper in Chicago, to be called the *New America*.

A theater box office keeper in San Francisco has been elected to the State Legislature, and advertises "this farewell benefit" prior to his departure for the State Capitol."

Washington is to have the "Mighty Dollar" after its withdrawal from New York, and Congressmen will be afforded an opportunity to see themselves as others see them.

The Colorado mining interest makes a good showing. The bullion product for this year will be about $7,500,000, or nearly a million more than was anticipated.

During the past year the United States Supreme Court has disposed of 325 cases by decision or dismissal. Eight hundred and forty cases still remain on the docket undisposed of.

General Kilpatrick, by a mistake, went to Bloomington, Illinois, instead of Bloomington, Indiana, the other day, to lecture. The people of the latter town are jubilant over the error.

Bourbon county, Kentucky, is better than its name. This season it has shipped thirty thousand corn-fattened turkeys to New York and Boston, and gobbled the money for them.

"Cornered" Milwaukee has thousands upon thousands of bushels of corn more than what it can legitimately handle, which somebody must pay for at prices that will never be realized.

An absolute change in the methods of grading sugars for purposes of taxation, in the interest of the Government, and to prevent errors and frauds, is proposed at all the principal ports.

The precise tract of land in Tennessee for which Colonel Sellers and Si. Hawkins endeavored so manfully to get a grant from Congress, is now worth the handsome sum of fifty cents an acre.

Sensible. General Sheridan holds that the Indian reservations should be made smaller and cut up into tracts for families, and that the Indians should then be compelled to work and send the children to school.

PERSONAL.

An adopted doughter of the late Henry Wilson is living in Norfolk county, Mass. She is ten years old.

Clara Morris has been compelled to withdraw for the present from the stage through the state of her health.

Miss Anna Dickinson makes her dramatic debut at the Fifth Avenue Theater, New York, after the Christmas holidays.

Professor Proctor, on his return to London next spring, will take the chair of astronomy in the new Roman Catholic university, founded mainly by the efforts of Cardinal Manning and Mgr. Capel, and opened at Kensington last year.

Richard Henry Stanley, Attorney General in King Kalakaua's dominions, died at Honolulu, November 5. He was a native of New York city. He went to the Hawaiian Islands in 1858, and commenced the practice of law. On the dissolution of the Cabinet in 1874, Mr. Stanley was selected by His Majesty for the important office of Attorney General, which he filled with credit up to the time of his demise.

Professor Patton may now call off his dogs and breathe freely one more. That terrible heretic, Professor Swing, has severed his connection with the Fourth Presbyterian church. But, according to the *Tribune*, he will remain in Chicago and harrow up the soul of Professor Patton by preaching in the heart of the city to an auditory five times as large as that which was able to gain admittance to his former church.

FASHIONS FOR DECEMBER.

Picturesque Styles at Vulgarly Low Prices—Women in Scarlet and Gold—Women in Furs and Feathers—Shopping for the Holidays.

[From our Own Correspondent.]

NEW YORK, November 30, 1875.

There is a great deal of pleasure in these bright days which come to us in the latter half of November, in shopping and seeing other people "shop" for the holidays.

Men make their purchases the night or day before Christmas or New Years; they know exactly what they want to get, for it is usually something about which they have received several unmistakable hints—a set of furs, a seal skin jacket, a pair of bracelets, a neck chain with pendent attached, an opera glass, a book, an engraving, or perhaps a basket of flowers or a box of bonbons. Whatever it is he knows just where he is going to get it, and is not troubled about what it will cost; he has not many presents to make and intends it shall be "handsome." So without troubling himself a moment beforehand he rests in conscious mastery of the situation until the time for decisive action arrives, then leisurely stops on his way up or down town, at the costliest shop he is acquainted with, makes his purchase, orders it home, and, the duty performed, dismisses it from his mind. What he does not like about the whole transaction is the hole it makes in his exchequer.

The ways of women are very different from this, partly from a difference in organization, partly from necessity. A woman never has money enough to buy all she wants at once, and could not if she had, because her purchases are so varied, adapted to so many family wants, and take in so great a diversity of individualities, big and little, young and old. It is the woman who looks out for the children, who remembers about the sled, and the skates, and the broken tea-set and the dilapidated doll, and the coveted writing desk, and other small articles, all of which must be reinforced at Christmas, or Christmas will not be any Christmas at all. It is she also who must hunt the repositories for the worsteds, or silks, in which to work miraculous slippers, which "papa" is to get in acknowledgment of his "solitaire," who knows just what the "grandma" will like, and who has to spread five dollars over a gaily figured dress, and numerous small articles of use and ornament for the critical approval of servants. No wonder she begins shopping in November! The money, less you, has been slowly accumulating through the year. It has been saved out of joints, and heads of celery, and stews upon the stray days when the husband dined at his club. It was helped considerably by making over a winter dress instead of buying a new one, by refining the children's furs at home and by—well, I am not going to tell any more of the shifts and sacrifices which collected together that precious money; but I will just remark that if it was happiness to save it, it is ten times greater happiness to spend it. It was saved to spend, and she only wants to spread her comfort and enjoyment in the uses to which she puts it over as much space as possible.

There have been quantities of virtuously indignant articles written about shopping, about women who occupied their time in looking at articles which they did not want and could not afford to buy. But how do we know they did not want them? Might not have given them a poor sort of consolation to look at articles, simply because they could not afford to buy them? Women are so poor. There are some who live in very fine houses, who do not know what it is to have a dollar in their purse which they can spend freely.

It is this which very often makes women seem mean, and, like children, pleased with trifles. A very nice looking old lady was made completely happy this morning by having two inches on a remnant of ribbon "thrown in." I thought then if one only could be a beneficent fairy about this time, how delightful it would be to touch with a wand the thin, scant looking pocketbooks of some women, and have them find unexpected treasures in the shape of bills and crisp paper currency; stretch millions to unimaginable lengths; duplicate gloves; attach the wished for ornament to the waist, or clasp it round the neck, and witness the joy of discovery.

REDUCTION IN PRICES.

An agency not altogether beneficent has very much reduced prices this season on all kinds of wearing apparel, but unfortunately at the same time has limited the means of purchase. Clothing, ornaments, objects of art and luxury, have not been obtainable at the present rates since long before the war. So many are trying to sell beautiful things, remnants of better days; so few, comparatively, have the money to buy.

Diamonds, camel's hair shawls, rich laces are offered in quantities at private sale, at less than half their original value, and not a few "bargains" have been secured in this way, which will make a great and unexpected show on Christmas tables and in grown up Christmas stockings.

American manufacturing and trading enterprise are also reducing prices upon many formerly costly fabrics and articles employed for use and ornament. We are making our own camel's hair cloth at a cost which enables the merchant to sell it at $1 50 instead of $3 50. We are making our own jewelry, real and imitation, that is, some of it, our own silks, our own made of panned paper ware, and some of our finest linns.

In the more delicate branches of industry we could do much more if workers were trained like the French to habits of industry and economy. We cannot make the artificial flowers, not because the skill is lacking, but because the waste of infinitesimal particles of rich material is so great as to more than absorb the profit. In the artificial flower and other manufactures of the same sort, the utmost care and vigilance is exercised; the floors are waxed, the clothing of the workers is covered by great aprons, and each morning the floor is shaken before leaving the room, and then the floor itself is swept and every particle of silk, every grain of gold leaf, every thread or particle of fur or wire collected and reserved for future use.

Here we lack this absolute system, and order, and cleanliness, and supervision necessary to success in fine branches of manufacture. We lack also the trained labor and we have to pay much higher prices for such as we get. Many hard lessons have got to be learned before we arrive at a point where we faithfully put ourselves, and that which is committed to us, to fullest and best uses.

PICTURESQUE FASHIONS.

One has to go back twenty years and see the fashion plates of that date in order to realize the revolution which has taken place since skirts covered with three flounces were spread out over a hoop four yards and a half round and crowned by a scoop-shaped bonnet, pitched back from the face, and rendered still more hideous by a deep, ugly curtain.

Certainly the styles now are picturesque if nothing else; they are full of surprises; well carried out, they present a series of enchanting pictures and are gay, gracious, lively or severe, but never common-place.

They are adapted to beautiful and cared for women; the homely and uncared for can find refuge in homespun and alpaca. What can be more striking or more graceful than a visiting dress of to-day? The plain demi-trained skirt of rich black velvet, coat sleeves of velvet also, with a princesse polonaise of soft white woolen matelasse or natte cloth, caught up on one side only, with a chatelaine bag of black velvet with silver mountings.

Add to this costume long ivory tinted kid gloves, and "Rubens" hat of unbleached felt turned up high and trimmed with black velvet and ivory feathers, and you have a dress which is perfection, as far as its effect is concerned, particularly if the wearer be handsome, graceful and young.

There was a time when certain rigid observances were necessary to constitute correct visiting and church dress. An orthodox *bonnet* was the first essential, and a proper exhibition of handkerchief balanced upon the tips of the fingers, the second. More intimate acquaintance with the manners of our French cousins has banished the bandbox, ordered the regime where it belongs, and we are gradually learning that if the prettiest things are not put to the best uses, they will be put to the worst.

The soft grey felt hats with broad brims bordered with fur, the left side turned back boldly, and mounted with a daring cornet in the feathers, or other trimmings, the crown swept by a long, drooping plume, was considered an innovation for city wear, even as late as the present autumn, but it has won high favor within a few months and is now to be seen at church, at the theater, at the opera and at receptions. It is rather curious that as yet we have had no "full dress opera" this season, the regular opera audiences have been conspicuous by their absence from the German and from the English opera. No evening toilettes have been seen, only such costumes as may be observed any time at church or in the street, with perhaps the addition of white or light hat and gloves.

The fashion of the felt hat, how-ever, and the more general use, both day and evening, of delicate tinted kid gloves, gives a generally more dressy appearance to an assemblage where there are ladies, and this is heightened by the uses to which gold and silver braid, and the vivid "Cardinal" scarlet is put.

SCARLET AND GOLD.

We have not put on the livery of the famous "Jeunes," nor become the complete representatives of the Babylonish woman. Scarlet and gold are both used sparingly, but they form such striking contrasts with black, navy blue, ivory and the cameo tints generally, that the result is very striking.

It is not uncommon to see complete costumes of navy blue, or invisible green, with hat to tip up by bows of scarlet ribbon and a scarlet rose, or scarlet feather. Creamy hats of rich velvet felt, have brims faced with scarlet and filled in with a scarlet bow, across which a dagger of gold and pearl gleams.

There are hats also bowed, and partly trimmed with gold or silver braid, and small pallots of black velvet, a cream colored cloth, or matelasse trimmed to match.

It is the fashion now instead of tying a ribbon round the throat to ornament the front of the paletot, or jacket, with loops and long ends. These are always scarlet unless the ribbon matches the suit or costume. The gold and scarlet mania is now in its best stage. The brilliant coloring is put in sparingly, and with artistic effect. The braids and finer galloons into which gold and silver thread are introduced are of the best quality, and do not tarnish or become defaced any quicker than the textile fabric which formes the foundation. The prices, at which alone this quality can be produced, restricts their use to the favored few, and it will take another season to fill the market with the trashy imitations, which destroy the best ideas, and furnish a motive for perpetual novelty.

FURS AND FEATHERS.

The question of furs has resolved itself very nearly into a question of trimmings. The introduction of fur trimmings actually threatens to kill the fur trade. The reason is this: Fashion insists upon harmony between the different parts of the costume. It is convenient to have a fur trimmed cloak or jacket, but it is not convenient to pay the price for mink or sable, or black martin "trimming to match the rest" which we already own. What is to be done? Perhaps new furs are required as well as a new jacket, and immediately an idea strikes the thrifty mind of the ingenious modern woman. She will make jacket or winter suit and muff out of the same cloth, and trim them both with the same fur; this method will enable her to use a much cheaper fur as trimming, and save the necessity for a new set, a most important item of expenditure. Moreover, when the fashion has gone, they can go with it, and nobody be hurt.

The new silk paletots, which are almost invariably lined or trimmed with fur, have especially suggested this solution to many a difficulty. Silk is not any more expensive than good cloth; a flannel lining edged with fur is cheap, better than fur on many accounts, and just as effective; make a muff to match with an edging of fur, and a band of it, the same in shade, but of better quality, round the center and the outfit, with the exception of the boa, is complete. Black velvet is beautifully utilized in this way; in fact the cost of a really handsome set of furs goes a great way toward providing a complete velvet suit.

The fashions in furs, in color and kind, rather than in styles has changed so within the past few years as to produce a feeling of uncertainty very unfavorable to a steady popular trade. There was a time when a set of mink was a *sine qua non* of the average women's existence. The business reputation of a husband who could not afford his wife a set of mink was compromised, while their possession was the indubitable evidence of a certain standing and respectability. Since the decline of mink no other set has reached or occupied the same position. The diversity is so great, that it has become a mere matter of taste, and as few can tell the difference between the real and imitations, or know indeed the names of the almost infinite varieties which they see about them, they shut their eyes, and buy that which suits the condition of their purse, since society no longer imposes any special obligation upon them in this direction.

Feather trimmings divide the honors with the fur, and this again impairs the prospects of the fur fanciers.

Worse still, it is the more expensive and profitable class of trade that they cut into. Feather trimings cannot be imitated, they require hand labor and care in their preparation. All this makes them prized and worn when the cheaper trimmings are never also than fur, much more varied and adapted, therefore, to a greater diversity of fabrics.

The tints and shades and prismatic hues blend with the colors of fabrics, and match the ornaments of the hat, perhaps even the composition of the fan. There is no end to the uses to which the soft, delicate or brilliant plumage of birds can be put, and ladies who can afford to preserve the unities in this costly way, find their excuse in the exquisite results.

THE PRINCESSE POLONAISE.

The polonaise dies hard. Half a dozen times when it has been supposed buried, put away out of sight and knowledge, it has turned up fresher, brighter, prettier and more fascinating than ever.

The last form which it has taken is that of an over-dress cut in the Gabrielle style, and sleveless of course. It slopes off from the waist smoothly and is caught up on the left side only, leaving the other plain, and free for the chatelaine or bag of the Jeanne d'Arc belt, from which is suspended the fan.

This polonaise is very pretty in Surah silk, over plain faille; or in white silk matelasses over blue brocade, cut plain.

It is exceedingly distinguished in white satin silk, over black velvet, and for visiting purposes may be made in brocaded casimer or cloth of Spitzbergen, over heavy faille.

SILVER JEWELERY.

The silver chatelaines, which retain their vogue, are probably responsible for the introduction of silver ornaments, which appear in the form of "throatlets," or bands, chased, or formed of links, which are clasped close round the throat.

There are also bracelets and earrings to match these patterns, and silver belts composed of rings through which velvet or ribbon is run, and which is swung to the side and used as a chatelaine if desired. A very fashionable appendage to the dress is the black velvet chatelaine bag, also mounted in silver.

It is always suspended from the left side of the opposite one from that which holds the fan and scent bottle, and looks exceedingly well when the dress is black, or black and white in silk and velvet and the ornaments silver.

For evening dresses chatelaine bags are made of silk and trimmed with lace and fringe to correspond. They are made of satin and covered as well as trimmed with lace.

The hair is worn higher, and beginning to be massed more toward the front of the head. Short, loose curls shade the forehead, instead of the disgusting "bang."

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FINANCE AND TRADE.

TUESDAY EVENING, November 30, 1875.

Another very quiet day was reported among our banks and monetary institutions, the demand for money being light from borrowers of sufficient standing to insure acceptance. Second-class and doubtful paper was in abundance on the street, but not much of it was offered at any of the leading banks, as experience has shown that there is little use in doing so. The mercantile situation is a very quiet and dormant one, but need hardly be viewed as discouraging. Nearly all of our leading wholesale and jobbing houses are in a better position now than they have been for years. They have had a moderately good fall trade, free from speculative or doubtful ventures, their credits are much less widely extended than ever before, and if some means could be found to at once overcome the premium upon dishonesty and rascality which is debauching our business morals, there would be every reason to be satisfied. The evils of fraudulent bankruptcy, and its close relation of downright swindling as practiced by some houses in this city, must be soon stopped or the evil will work out its own remedy by a total destruction of the system of credit on which business is now conducted. With these evils removed, the business situation, while quiescent, is rather encouraging, and looks fairly for next season's trade.

—An interesting event in stock circles was the decision of the United States Supreme Court confirming the decision of the Court of Claims, rendered last May in the case of the Union Pacific Railroad Company vs. the Government. As this case has been unduly magnified, as affecting the value of the securities of the railroad, it is now in order to briefly recite the facts. The railroad company is largely in arrears to the Government for interest paid upon the currency sixes which were loaned to the company to aid in building the road. The contract between the Government and the railroad stipulated that one-half of the pay for service performed by the railroad for the Government should be retained as part payment of the interest for which the Government was liable on its bonds. Some time ago the Treasury Department undertook to retain the whole of such sum, giving the railroad credit in account for the same. For this one-half thus retained the railroad brought suit in the Court of Claims and on the 31st of May, 1875, recovered judgment for the sum of $512,632 50. This judgment has now been confirmed by the court of last resort. The full effect upon the railroad company is to put it in present funds for the amount which the Government has heretofore retained over and above the one-half due for service which it has a right to retain, and in the future—accepting the past as a criterion of the Government business—the company will receive about $450,000 per annum in cash from the Government for services performed instead of nothing, as for the past eighteen months. It will be observed that the amount of $450,000 in just one and a quarter per cent. on the capital stock of the company. The decision does not affect the just debt which is steadily accuring in favor of the Government against the company, nor the claim of the Government for five per cent. each year of the net earnings of the company to be paid on account of such indebtedness, in addition to the one-half of the amount due for service, which is still to be retained.

—We notice that some of our Western contemporaries are indulging in a little gratuitous advise concerning the proper remedy for the evil caused by our bogus commission houses. Their advise is that the Pittsburgh papers should publish the names of the firms carrying business in the dishonest manner heretofore related. This would be all very well in a State where the laws were enacted and construed in a manner consistent with the requirements of the age. It is in fact the only way to reach such evils, and it is wholly within the proper province of the public press to expose and thwart men who debauch the morals of business and render competition impossible by an organized system of public swindling. But here in Pennsylvania we have such a remarkably constructed system of libel laws that the course named would open to the swindlers a path to fortune more easy and certain than that which they now pursue. For no matter how convincing the evidence of their guilt may be, the libel, according to Pennsylvania law, is none the less flagrant. Nothing would be more welcome to the confidence commission dealers than to be exposed by the newspapers, as in that case they could realize from a single newspaper what they are now obliged to laboriously swindle a hundred shippers out of. It will be seen that they are abundantly protected by law, a fact sufficiently discreditable to Pennsylvania legislation.

—The dividend and interest disbursements for the coming month are not very heavy. The quarterly dividend of Pennsylvania Railroad stock became due today, the regular two per cent. having been duly declared. A quarterly dividend of one and three-fourths per cent. on the Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad also becomes due to-morrow. In addition a guaranteed quarterly dividend of one and three-fourths per cent. on the Erie and Pittsburgh Railroad stock comes due during the month, and six months' interest on series D of the first mortgage sevens of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railway. So far as local institutions are concerned no arrangements are made as yet. They will probably be light, as when the first of the year is so nearly reached, it is preferred as a date for the disbursements of dividends or interest. Nevertheless we shall look for some dividend announcements from our banks and insurance companies during the course of the month.

—We extract the following interesting statements concerning the late growth of banking in Russia from the London *Economist*:

> As regards banking, Russia, to begin with, has the state *Bank*—with a capital of £2,933,000 a note issue, according to the last account before us, of about £106,000,000, guaranteed by a cash reserve of about £37,000,000 in gold and £4,000,000 in silver; liabilities on deposit and account current amounting to about £20,000,000, against which there is a reserve, mainly of notes in the "banking department," amounting to about £6,000,000; and discounts and advances amounting to about £11,000,000. These are pretty large figures, and enable Russia to be compared in banking matters with France, Germany and Austria; but, in addition—and this is the most important point for the present purpose—there are now about forty joint stock banks receiving money on deposit and account current and making mercantile advances. One or two of these banks are not unimportant institutions, their liabilities amounting to from five to ten millions sterling each, and altogether, as will be seen from the summary of their accounts in August, 1875, which we subjoin, their aggregate business is important. Their paid up capital at the above date was £13,700,000; their liabilities on deposit and current account, £40,880,000, besides miscellaneous liabilities to correspondents and others of about £10,000,000 more; their discounts and advances, £42,267,000, and their cash and balances in the State Bank, £16,650,000. And all this banking has been the creation of the last ten or eleven years, and mostly subsequent to 1862. The bank law under which these banks are organized was only passed in 1857, and the first bank established under it in 1864; while even so late as 1867 the patronage of the State was necessary as a stimulus to forming new banks. Some of these institutions are not properly banks in the English sense of the word, their deposits being inconsiderable, and most of their advances being made from their own capital; but this explanation would not apply to the majority of them, which are, properly speaking, banks. And we doubt if there has been a more rapid growth of banking on record in a country which was previously without banks.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day, furnished by the Fifth National Bank, No. 16 Sixth street:

November 30, 1875.	10:30 A.M.	11:30	12:30	1:30	2:40	3:00
	A. M.	A. M.	M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.
Gold	113⅝	113⅝	113⅝	113⅝	113⅝	113⅝
U. S. 6's, 1881, coupon	120½					
U. S. 5-20's, 1865, coupon	118½					
U. S. 5-20's, 1867, coupon	119½		120			
U. S. 5-20's, 1867, registered	118½					
U. S. 5-20's, 1868	118½					
U. S. 10-40's, coupon	116½					
U. S. 10-40's, registered	116½					
Currency 6's	122½					
New York Central	118½	118½	118½	118½	118½	118½
Western Union Tel.	85¾	85¾	85¾	85¾	85¾	85¾
Quicksilver	17					
Pacific Mail	41					
Panama	122					
Adams Express	102					
Wells, Fargo & Co.	94					
American Express	60½					
U. S. Express	54					
New York Central	118½					118½
Erie	16⅛					16⅜
Hudson River	30½					30½
Michigan Southern	89⅝	89⅝	89⅝			89⅝
Illinois Central	94½		94¾			94¾
Cleve., & Pittsburgh	88⅝					88⅝
Chicago & Northwestern	58	58⅛	58⅛	58⅛	58⅛	58⅛
Do preferred	82					82
Rock Island	95⅝					95⅝
Pittsburg	155					155
Fort Wayne	133					133
Ohio & Mississippi	17⅝					17⅝
Union Pacific stock	81½					81½
Land Grant bonds	78					78
Sinking Fund	68					68
Northwestern	88¼					88¼
Do preferred	104½					104½
Toledo & Wabash	9¾					9¾
Do preferred	20					20
Fort Wayne	98					98
Terre Haute	5½					5½
Do preferred	10½					10½
Chicago & Alton	88¾					88¾
Do preferred	97½					97½
Ohio & Mississippi	17⅝					17⅝
Indiana Central	4¼					4¼
Panama R. R. & Cy.	114					114
Hannibal & St. Jos	23½					23½
Central Pacific stock	119½					119½
Atlantic & Pac Tel	39½					39½
Union Pac. stock	81½					81½
Central Pac. bds	104½					104½
Union Pac. bds	105					105
Total	93					93

GOVERNMENTS.

U. S. coupons, 1881	123¾	New 5's	117¼
5-20's, 1865	119½	10-40's	117¼
5-20's, 1865, new	120½	10-40's coupons	117¼
5-20's, 1867	122½	Currency 6's	122½
5-20's, 1868	122½		

STATE BONDS.

Tennessee, old	47¼	Virginia, old	38
Tennessee, new	45	Missouri 6's	102¼
Virginia, new	43		

LONDON, November 30, 5 P. M.—Consols for money 95 5-16; for account 94 13-16. United States bonds—5-20's, 1865, old, 107; do 1867, 109½; do 10-40's, 105¾; new 5's, 106. Railroad securities—New York Central 96; Erie 14¾; preferred 30.

PARIS, November 30.—Rentes 65 francs 95 centimes.

FRANKFORT, November 30.—United States bonds—New five-twenties, 99½.

NEW ORLEANS, November 30.—Gold 113¾. Sight ¼ discount. Sterling—Bank 554.

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } TUESDAY, November 30, 1875. }

The business situation shows no variation of importance from that previously noticed, the condition of quiet and somnolence remaining unchanged. The business in produce, breadstuffs, provisions and groceries is confined to hand to mouth purchases of only such goods as are urgently required; but the aggregate of trade is for that reason more than is generally to be expected at this period when all such classes of business become dormant. In some departments of business, activity is expected during the next month and up to the holidays, but taken as a whole a quiet feeling may be expected to prevail during the winter months in trade circles. Prices to-day were steady without material alteration from former reports.

The receipts of the leading articles of produce since our last are as follows:

Flour, bbls	1,429	Apples, bbls	251
Cheese, lbs	943	Corn, bus	1,395
Wheat, bush	2,000	Hay, tons	3,300
Oats, bus	2,702	Butter, pkgs	57
Bacon, pcs	10,325	Bacon, lcs	125
Potatoes, bush	1,350	Hay, bales	130

The quotations given in the following reports are prices realized in wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales, dealers will charge an advance. Sales of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free of elevator.

Grain, Flour, Feed, Etc.

GRAIN—There was a quiet and easy market at quotably unchanged values. Wheat is in active demand for good winter lots, while low grades are now wanted and are difficult to sell. We quote Michigan white wheat at $1 40@1 42 ₱ bushel; Pennsylvania and Ohio do $1 35@1 37; prime sound red winter at $1 32½@1 35; low grade do $1 20@1 25; rejected do $1 10@1 15, as to quality. Corn continues steady for old at former prices. New car is rather weak with sales of 2 cars choice yellow at 48c; 1 car do selected at 52c; 2 cars mixed at 46c. We quote sales of 1 car choice at 50c ₱ bushel for prime yellow; 46@47c for high mixed; 42@43c for low mixed; car corn, 44@46c ₱ bushel for prime yellow or truck; 40@42c for high mixed; new car continues easy at 45@47c for prime and 42@44c for prime yellow. Oats are in light supply and rather firmer, though not quotably advanced. We quote Western white oats at 36@38c ₱ bushel; choice Pennsylvania do 34@36c; dark to light mixed 30@33c. Barley is moving slowly at depressed prices. We quote Canada at $1 50@1 60 ₱ bushel; choice Pennsylvania do $1 45@1 50; common to prime do $1 40@1 45; choice fall, $1 30@1 35; common do 90@$1 05. Rye is rather sluggish and easy at 80@85c ₱ bushel for prime. Jobbing prices of corn and oats rule 5@10c above wholesale quotations.

FLOUR—The trade continues to show an unbroken and unattractive appearance, with a moderate jobbing trade at easy values. We quote the wholesale prices of the local millers to follow: No. 1 white family flour $8 00 ₱ bbl; No. 1 amber do $7 50; red winter flour $7 25 in sacks 25c off ₱ bbl. The jobbing prices of the leading dealers for standard brands of flours are steady as follows: Choice brands of white winter wheat flour $7 75@8 00; well known brands of family flour $7 25@7 50; Wisconsin is quoted at $6 75; Minnesota at $7 25; favor St. Louis $8 25@8 50; new red winter wheat flour in sacks $7 25@7 50; Graham flour $7 00@7 25; self-raising flour, in 6 ₱ packages, $3 25 ₱ doz; en packages; cornmeal 80c ₱ bushel; oatmeal $7 00 ₱ bbl; kegs $4 00@4 25; rye flour $5 25 ₱ bbl.

HAY—The market continues dull and depressed. We quote prime No. 1 timothy, on track, at $19 00@20 00 ₱ ton; No. 2 $17 00@18 00; upland prairie $12 00@14 50. Sales from store were active at $21 00@22 00.

MILL FEED—The demand is moderate and prices are much depressed. We quote bran at 80@90c ₱ cwt; seconds $1 05@1 10 ₱ cwt; middlings $1 20@1 40 ₱ cwt; chopped feed $1 40@1 50 ₱ cwt; oil meal $1 90@2 00 ₱ cwt.

Country Produce.

APPLES—The stock of apples laid in during the past fifty or sixty days is very large amounting to fifty or sixty thousand barrels; but it is held with confidence and under a good demand. Values are steady and the market is active. We quote from store, as follows: Choice eating apples $3 50@4 00 ₱ barrel; large cooking $3 25@3 75; common to medium grades in light demand at $2 00@3 00.

BEANS—Receipts are large, and the market is weak. Quotations are lower at $1 75@1 40 for prime medium; navies $1 50@1 55.

BEESWAX—The market is quiet with little doing except in a jobbing way; nominally 30@32c ₱ ₱.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—We quote buckwheat flour at $2 75@3 00 per cwt.

BUTTER—The market is steady with a fair demand on choice table grades, which are rather scarce; the bulk of the receipts are however of the common to fair grades with which the demand is over supplied, and which find slow sale at shaded prices. We quote prime to choice dairy at 28@31c; fair to good 25@27c; common to low 15@20c.

CHEESE—The demand is slow and market lifeless and dull. We quote factory at 14@14½c for September; New York Goshen at 15½c; Sweitzer 16@18c; Limberger 14@15c.

DRIED FRUIT—The market is steady. Dried apples are in demand at 7½@10½c ₱ ₱ for choice quarters; dried peaches are scarce and higher at 13@15c for choice halves; dried blackberries 12@13c.

EGGS—The market is active and stronger. We quote fresh scarce and in demand at 29@30c ₱ dozen; pickled pretty and not very actively sought after at 25@29c.

HONEY—New comestic honey is steady at 25@28c ₱ ₱. Cuba honey in demand at 30@35 ₱ ₱.

MAPLE MEAT—Prices are quoted at 10½@11c ₱ ₱.

NUTS—Chestnuts are easy at $3 50@3 75 ₱ bushel; peanuts are in fair request at easy prices; prime white Tennessee nuts are sold at 5½@6c according to quality; Virginias 5½@6c; shellbarks are easy at $1 75@2 00; Spanish nuts quoted at 4½@4½c ₱ bushel.

POTATOES—Under the influence of lighter receipts and an active demand the market is more active. The trade in car lots is about over and only two car lots are offered out all low prices in order to prevent damage by freezing. We quote for round lots on track at 30@35c for Peerless and Early Rose; 40@45c for prime peachblows. From store there is a tight supply and market at $1 40@1 50 ₱ barrel; 50c ₱ bushel.

POULTRY—There is a moderately active trade. Live chickens are quoted at 4½@5c ₱ pair; live turkeys 7½@8½ ₱ ₱. Dressed poultry—Chickens 12@13c ₱ ₱; turkeys 15@16c; ducks 13@14c.

SEEDS—Flaxseed is quiet at $1 55@1 60; timothy seed is jobbing at $2 75@3 ₱ bushel. Cloverseed $7 25@7 50.

VEGETABLES—Onions are in large stock. We quote at $1 50@2 00 ₱ barrel. Dried green peas are quoted at $1 75@2 00 ₱ bushel.

Groceries.

Trade among the wholesale grocers continues quiet and rather dull, although in sugars there is a firmer and better feeling, especially in refined. We quote as follows:

Green Coffees.	₱ ₱.	*Sugars.*	₱ ₱.
Fancy Rio	25	c. Standard A	10⅝@10¾c
Choice Rio	25	c. Standard B	10⅝@10¾c
Prime Rio	24	c. Do. extra C	10@10½c
Good Rio	24	c. Extra C—yellow	9¾c
Ordinary	24	c. Yellow	9¼c
Roasted Coffees.		Franklin, B	9¾c
Rio, in papers	27½	c. Cut Loaf	13½c
Rio, in bulk	27@27½	c. Crushed	13½c
Java, in papers	35	c. Powdered	13½c
Java, in bulk	30½	c. Granulated	11½c

Market stronger owing to a scarcity; sales at 1 car at $2 25. Corn—Demand limited; white 56c; yellow 56c. Oats—Supply good and demand limited; choice Galena 36c. Hay dull; sales of prime at $23 00. Pork quiet; new mess $23 00; old $22 25@23 00. Whisky—Sales of Louisiana rectified at $1 14; Western $1 15@1 17. Others unchanged.

Toledo.

TOLEDO, November 30.—Flour quiet and unchanged. Wheat steady; No. 3 white Wabash $1 27, amber Michigan, spot and seller November, $1 27; seller January $1 20; seller February $1 23. Corn dull; high mixed 39½c; do new 36½c; new, seller the year, 48½c; seller February 48c; low mixed, new, 50c; no grade, 56c; damaged, new, 44c. Oats dull and unchanged. Navigation closed.

Boston.

BOSTON, November 30.—Flour in moderate demand; superfine Western $4 75; common extras $5 25@5 75; Wisconsin extras $5 75@6 25; winter wheat Ohio, Indiana and Michigan $6 50@7 50; Illinois $6 75@7 37½; St. Louis $7 00@7 50; Minnesota $6 87½@8 25. Corn—Mixed and yellow, old, 70@71c; do new 70@73c. Oats—Mixed and white 47@50c.

Milwaukee.

MILWAUKEE, November 30.—Flour dull and quiet. Wheat dull and unsettled; No. 1 Milwaukee club $1 06@1 07; No. 2 do $1 01@1 03. Corn firm and unchanged. Oats dull; No. 2 mixed 30½@33½c. Oats dull; No. 2, 29@30c. Barley steady with a moderate demand; No. 2 spring, 86@90c. Rye dull and weak; No. 1, 71½c; No. 2, 70c.

Louisville.

LOUISVILLE, November 30.—Cotton quiet at 12½c. Flour quiet and unchanged. Wheat dull at $1 10@1 30. Corn firm and unchanged. Oats quiet at 36@38c. Rye firm at $1 @1 05. Pork quiet; mess $23 00@23 50; new mess $22 00@22 50. Bulk meats 7¼@8½c; clear sides 10½@11½c. Lard 13½@14½c. Whisky steady with a moderate demand at $1 11.

Detroit.

DETROIT, November 30.—Flour quiet and unchanged. Wheat dull; extra $1 34½; amber Michigan $1 26. Corn dull; No. 2, 45c. Oats dull; No. 2 mixed 30c. Barley quiet and unchanged.

Toledo.

TOLEDO, November 30.—Flour quiet and unchanged. Wheat dull; extra $1 34½; amber Michigan $1 26. Corn dull; No. 2, 45c. Oats dull; white 30c; mixed 29c. Barley quiet and unchanged.

Cincinnati.

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Indianapolis.

INDIANAPOLIS, November 30.—Flour quiet and unchanged. Wheat dull; extra $1 34½; amber Michigan $1 26. Corn dull; No. 2, 45c. Oats dull; white 30c; mixed 29c. Barley quiet and unchanged.

Chicago.

CHICAGO, November 30.—Flour quiet and unchanged. Wheat dull; extra $1 34½; amber Michigan $1 26. Corn dull; No. 2, 45c. Oats dull; white 30c; mixed 29c. Barley quiet and unchanged.

St. Louis.

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The Pittsburg Commercial: Wednesday, December 1, 1875.

CITY MATTERS.

For eighty-five cents per month the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be mailed to travelers or to subscribers who are temporarily absent from Pittsburgh. The address of the paper will be changed as often as is desired.

The Evangelical Alliance.

We have on hand a limited number of the extra edition of the COMMERCIAL containing the full proceedings of the Evangelical Alliance, copies of which can be had at our counting room, at five cents per copy.

Local Observations.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV., Room 21, First National Bank, PITTSBURGH, PA., November 30, 1875.

Time.	Bar.	Th'r.	Hum	WIND. Dir.	Force.	Weath.
7 A. M.	30 468	12	61	N. E.	Gentle.	Fair.
7 P. M.	30 329	19	70	E.	Fresh.	Cloudy
9 P. M.	30.252	17	67	N. E.	Gentle.	Clear.

Mean barometer...30.325. Highest thermom....21
Mean thermom.... 16 Lowest thermom.... 8

Fourth Avenue Baptist Church Notice.

The Rev. A. J. Rowland, who removed to Philadelphia from this city about three years ago, will preach to-night in the new edifice of the Baptist church on Ross street and Fourth avenue. Dr. Rowland has been greatly prospered in his present field, and many will be glad to take this opportunity of hearing him.

The Bankrupt Law.

We have already referred to the fact that the Chamber of Commerce will hold a special meeting, on Monday next, to hear an expression of views relative to the modification of the existing bankrupt law. There is a rapidly developing sentiment in this community—in view of recent developments under the operations of that law—in favor of its entire repeal. Many denounce it as an instrument of outrageous oppression and fraud; and hold that its repeal is not only demanded as a protection of private rights, but as a means of re-bringing about better times through a restoration of confidence among business men.

Ross and the Grand Jury.

Chief Ross, of Allegheny, who has an unsettled score of "costs" in liquor cases, with one of the recent grand juries, has been inquiring into the manner in which grand juries have been drawn of late. He thinks he will be able to show that some of these, at least, have been illegally drawn, that is, that their names were never placed in the wheel, and of course not "drawn" therefrom, as required by law. It is said that he will draw the attention of the Court of Quarter Sessions to this matter, on Monday next, when another term begins, and another grand jury is to be sworn.

The County Jail.

Warden Smith, of our county jail reports one hundred and forty prisoners now under his charge. And that the average number daily is far below that of previous years at this season. There are but fifty-four cells in the jail, and for some years past the average number for the week the Warden was compelled to accommodate seventy-two persons in the ten small apartments. We also learn that the average number of prisoners is not now less than before the Workhouse was established, showing that crime has sadly increased since that time. There was a falling off of prisoners at the jail for a time after the erection of the Claremont institution, but the jail is now as well patronized as ever. Parties committed for terms of ten days or under go to jail.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

U. S. District Court—Judge McCandless.—C. G. Hammer & Son, debtors, Pittsburgh. An order was made for a meeting of the creditors on the 17th prox., to consider and pass upon a proposition for composition and settlement.

Powell, Gregg & Co., bankrupts, Washington county. Hearing on the motion for an injunction against John Paxton & Co., *et al.*, adjourned to the 1st prox.

J. Emery Baker, bankrupt, Westmoreland county. The argument took place on a motion for an injunction against Samuel Dixon, by Keenan for and Campbell against the same. Decision reserved.

Daniel C. Erhart, bankrupt, Blair county. An order was made for the sale of certain real estate.

Wm. H. Hawkins, bankrupt, Clinton county. The appointment of S. M. McCormick, of Lock as assignee, approved.

Lawrance Sands, bankrupt, Allegheny county. The creditors, at a meeting called for that purpose, having chosen Mr. Alfred Moore, of Pittsburgh, as assignee, the same was approved.

U. S. Circuit Court—Judge McKennan.

The case of Shafer vs. the Pennsylvania Railroad Company is still on trial.

Common Pleas No. 2—Judges Ewing and Hawkins.

The cases of Gebhart Mauch vs. Werner Kreuzkamp, before reported, are still on trial.

In the case of Amanda Park vs. John H. Huckenstein, the jury found for the plaintiff for $68.

Patrick Barrett and wife vs. Francis Dunn; an action for slander. Jury out.

Matthias Hall vs. The Mercantile Banking and Loan Association. On trial before Judge Kirkpatrick.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

Library Hall.

We are glad to be able to record the fact that Miss Charlotte Thompson's intimitable impersonation of *Jane Eyre* was witnessed last evening by at least double the number present on Monday night. Still, the auditorium showed seats which ought to have been occupied, and were not. The opinion expressed as to this performance in yesterday morning's COMMERCIAL, that no such dramatic triumph had ever been witnessed here, was fully confirmed. Miss Thompson's *Jane Eyre* deserves to rank with the highest stage picturesque of the age. Her personality as a "star" is lost sight of when she first appears, and we have first the despised orphan, and then the proud, noble woman. The gradual transition of a dependent, compelled the respect and regard of those above her in social rank by the strength of a pure womanhood. The company, too, from Mr. Sheridan down to the little Miss who fills the part of child *Adele*, is most perfectly in the play, and leave nothing to be wished.

"Jane Eyre" will be given for the third time this evening, and we urge every one who admires a drama high in the scale of intellectual interest, played by a perfectly capable company, to go. Seats should be secured at Hale's, 63 Smithfield street.

Pittsburgh Opera House—"La Fille De Mme. Angot."

The strength of Mrs. Oates' comic opera combination was thoroughly tested last evening in the brilliant and ever popular opera of "Mme Angot's Child," and won enthusiastic applause. The completeness and perfection of the ensemble which was shown in the rendition throughout the lively music and comic situations of that *chef d oeuvre* of Lecocq's. The music was brilliantly and correctly rendered throughout, and all the actors entered into the spirit of the play and comedy.

Mrs. Oates as *Clairette* showed that she has not stood still since she sang in the same character here two years ago. Her vivacity and verve with which her characters were always marked, show the result of study. Her most significant and telling performance was the singing in the scolding duet at the close of the third act, in which her acting as that duet were especially forcible. Her entire performance was marked with a remarkable degree of life and spirit and deserved the liberal applause that it obtained.

Next to Mrs. Oates, the *Pomponnet* of Mr. Drew and the *Mlle. Lange* of Miss Rose Temple were among the notable successes of the evening, both of these parts displaying an unexpected degree of force and life. The scene in the part of *Ange Pitou* was in some passages rather beyond Mr. Barrett's abilities, but he did his best and gave general satisfaction. The abilities and training of Miss Hamilton were shown to splendid advantage in the Conspirator's Song and the magnificent waltz of the second act.

To-night, "La Grande Duchesse" will be given. This is one of Mrs. Oates' best parts and it should draw a large house.

Fifth Avenue Comedy Theater.

Harrigan and Hart's combination played "The Doyle Brothers" for the second time, last night, and before an audience filling every part of the theater. The play, as was said yesterday morning, is a very good one, and were it ever so bad, Harrigan and Hart, with their fund of rich specialties, would render it enjoyable. The laughter and applause is almost continuous, during the entire performance. With all its fun, there is not the slightest trace of vulgarity, the ladies enjoying the play as well as the sterner sex. "Doyle Brothers" will be repeated to-night, and another jam may be looked for.

Grand English Opera.

The sale of seats for the two nights of English opera at Library Hall, next Friday and Tuesday, will begin at Hale's music store, 103 Smithfield street, to-morrow morning at nine o'clock. The "Lily of Killarney" and the "Huguenots" will be presented with the charming Mme. Van Zandt in the leading *roles*.

Trimble's Varieties Theater.

Goto Trimble's Varieties this afternoon, or evening, and see George France and his wonderful performing dogs, in the fine play entitled "Wide Awake." In addition there will be given a very interesting variety olio.

Battle of Lookout Mountain.

This wonderful work of art is now being exhibited for the last week, at Library art gallery. No one should fail to see it.

TEE HOMEOPATHIC FAIR.

Bishop Simpson to be Present.

To-day the much talked of fair for the Homeopathic Hospital will be inaugurated at City Hall, and from appearances the evening it will be unusually attractive. We are pleased to announce that at the opening exercises this evening, the distinguished statesman and divine, Bishop Simpson, will be present and suitably address those present. Our readers will remember that the dinners begin to-day and continue all the week, and there is every probability of excellent fare. The ladies have placed the price of dinner tickets at sixty or three dollars, which includes admission. By all means visit the fair and give it countenance and support.

PITTSBURGH MORTUARY REPORT.

Deaths in the City During the Past Week.

Following is the mortuary report of the city for the past week, as furnished by the Board of Health: The total number of deaths was 38, of whom 10 were married persons, 24 single, 3 widows and 1 not stated. The nativity was: Pittsburgh, 29; other parts of the United States, 5; Canada, 1; England, 2; Germany, 1; Ireland, 5. Ages—Under 1 year, 6; from 1 to 2 years, 4; from 2 to 5, 6; from 5 to 10, 3; from 15 to 20, 5; from 20 to 30, 1; from 30 to 40, 3; from 40 to 50, 5; from 50 to 60, 2; from 60 to 70, 2; from 70 to 80, 2. Total—38. The causes of death were: Alcoholism, 1; accident, 1; accident by burn, 1; accident by railroad, 1; asthma, 1; bronchitis, capillary, 1; cancer of uterus, 1; cancer of liver, 1; carcinitis, 1; consumption, 5; convulsions, 2; croup, 1; diphtheritis, 3; debility, 1; dysentery, acute, 1; enteritis, acute, 3; typho monia, 1; fever, phthisic, 1; fever, scarlet, 2; fracture, 1; gastro enteritis, 1; heart, valvular disease, 1; inanition, 1; meningitis, 2; premature birth, 1; pneumonia, 2; peritonitis, 1. Total—38.

Infectious diseases reported for the week: Second ward, small pox 1; Ninth ward, typhoid fever 3; Tenth ward, typhoid fever 1; Eleventh ward, 3 cases; and typhoid fevers each in Twelfth ward, the same; Thirteenth ward, scarlet fever 5, diphtheria 1; Fourteenth ward, diphtheria 1; Fifteenth ward, scarlet fever 1, diphtheria 2; Sixteenth ward, typhoid fever 1; Seventeenth ward, scarlet fever 3; Twenty-first ward, measles 3; Twenty-second ward, small pox 1; Twenty-sixth ward, measles 2; Twenty-seventh ward, typhoid fever 1; Thirtieth ward, measles, scarlet fever and diphtheria each 1. Total 30.

OUR CRIMINAL JURISPRUDENCE.

Proposed Reform of Existing Abuses—Letter from Judge White to Joseph M. Carson, Esq—Interesting Statistics—Additional Legislation Demanded.

Joseph M. Carson, Esq., recently submitted to Judge White the draft of a bill for the establishment of a Police Court for the city of Pittsburgh, which he intends to offer at the ensuing session of the Legislature, and upon which he requested the opinion of the judge, who has been giving the subject considerable attention of late. Judge White replies in the following able letter, in which he not only urges additional legislation as bearing upon criminal practice, but gives facts and statistics to show that reform in the administration of our criminal laws is imperatively demanded. The letter is deserving of a full and careful reading:

PITTSBURGH, November 30th, 1875.

To Jos. M. Carson, Esq.

DEAR SIR: You did me the honor of submitting to me for my examination and opinion, the draft of a bill you had prepared to be introduced at the next session of our State Legislature, for changing the system of criminal jurisprudence in our county, or at least in the city of Pittsburgh.

The subject is one of grave magnitude. An experience of three months in the Quarter Sessions of the county has satisfied me that some changes in our criminal jurisprudence, and some additional legislation on the subject are needed, and that a great reform in the administration of our criminal laws is imperatively demanded. The present system is incompatible with our free institutions. For, merely grand juries had no power over costs. Now, when they ignore a bill, they can impose the costs upon the prosecutor. In some cases, that is right. But often it is wrong and cruelly oppressive. Yet there is no remedy. The Court cannot relieve the party. The grand jury act in secret, and may act arbitrarily. The prosecutor may not be to blame. He may have done his duty. The failure of any of other witnesses, by the Assistant District Attorney, or by the grand jury, may put him into the category of those who refuse or go to jail. Every term of our court there are hundreds of cases, in which the sheriff or constable of the county of constables to return certain cases to court; yet I have known instances of constables between whom and the sheriff costs for simply doing what they were compelled to do under their official relations. In one case a citizen made an information against a man for violating the license law in selling to minors. There was only one prosecutor, and he need have been only one indictment with several counts. But seven different indictments were sent before the grand jury. Three were returned true bills, on which the defendant was found guilty, but four were returned ignoramus and the costs put on the prosecutor. In one instance a prosecutor was mulct in several hundred dollars of costs. The grand jury, sitting as a secret inquisition, virtually tries the prosecutor and condemns him to pay costs without giving him the opportunity of a fair and open trial, which is guaranteed to the meanest citizen for the most trifling sum of money. Certainly this evil should be remedied in some way. Either give the prosecutor a right to demand in a fair, open trial, or give the court power to examine into the matter and regulate the payment of costs where unjustly imposed.

Our grand juries are usually in session from one to two months, at considerable expense to the county. The great majority of cases coming before them are of a petty, trifling character, and in consequence of the great number, they can give but a short hearing to each case. Of what use is the grand jury in such cases? The defendant had better have his trial at once before the petit jury. If convicted, he would have to pay the costs. No doubt he would be acquitted in all cases where the grand jury ignored a bill after a proper hearing, and his acquittal by the petit jury would be far better for him than an ignoramus. It would be better for the prosecutor, also. He will have a fair chance of presenting his case properly, and will not be thrown into costs without an opportunity of being heard in his defense. Besides, in most cases when thrown into the costs, he would have no means to pay.

THE QUESTION OF COSTS.

A large majority of the cases sent up to court are of a trifling character, and should be settled by the committing magistrate. About fourth of all the cases brought before the grand jury are returned ignoramus. About one-third of those tried by the petit jury are acquitted. And nearly one-half of the cases where there is a conviction, are so trifling that the parties are let off on the payment of costs and a nominal fine. Not more than one-fourth of one-third of all the cases returned to court involve crimes or offenses of any magnitude, or call for any serious punishment. In the majority of cases the only real question is, who shall pay the costs. It is the duty of the grand jury, when the bill is ignored, to say who shall pay the costs, the county or the prosecutor. They have no power to put the costs on the defendant. The petit jury, in misdemeanors, when they return a verdict of not guilty, must say whether the county, the prosecutor or defendant shall pay the costs, or they may divide them between the prosecutor and defendant. I believe it would be better if the grand jury had the same power over costs as the petit jury. It often happens that both parties are to blame. Sometimes a defendant is technically guilty of the offense charged, when the grand jury believe it would be unjust to put the costs upon the prosecutor or county, and therefore return a true bill. If they had power to put the costs on the defendant they would probably ignore the bill, thus end the case and save the defendant or county from a big bill of costs in court. It is true the defendant is not heard before the grand jury. But in his absence they can find a true bill against him, on which he must stand his trial in court, and even if then acquitted, it costs him more than to pay the costs on an ignored bill.

In a great many cases neither the prosecutor nor defendant is able to pay the costs. There is no alternative but to go to jail. The court has no power to relieve the party, although it may be a father or mother on whom a helpless family is dependent. But going to jail does not pay the costs. It is only a further expense to the county. After being incarcerated a month or two, such parties are let out, and the county has to pay the keeping and foots the bill of costs.

CURTAILING COSTS.

From the court calendar I have prepared the following table, showing the number of cases returned to court during the past year, that is, for four terms, namely, the December sessions of 1874, and the March, June and September sessions of 1875. It embraces cases of the Oyer and Terminer as well as Quarter Sessions. It gives the crimes or offenses charged, the number of each, for each term, and the totals for each term and the year:

Cases in the Oyer and Terminer and Quarter Sessions of Allegheny County, for one year, from December 1, 1874, to December 1, 1875:

	1874 Dec. sessions.	1875 March sessions.	June sessions.	Sept. sessions.	Total.
Murder	2	0	5	4	11
Manslaughter	1	0	1	1	3
Mayhem	0	0	0	1	2
Rape, and attempts to commit	0	3	1	8	12
Sodomy and attempts to commit	9	8	12	5	34
Rape and attempts to commit	9	4	3	5	21
Robbery	6	1	2	3	12
Larceny, grand, by bailees and receiving stolen goods	110	84	109	172	475
Assaults and batteries felonious	21	12	12	18	63
Assaults and batteries	111	65	73	136	385
Desertion and abandonment	16	11	14	17	58
Embezzlement	7	7	7	9	30
False pretenses	28	20	19	37	101
Forgery	1	0	1	1	3
Forcible entry and detainer	1	6	10	8	25
Fornication and bastardy and adultery	20	17	20	10	67
Gambling and gaming houses	12	7	3	3	25
Libel	2	1	1	0	4
Malicious mischief	10	4	7	17	38
Nuisance	6	2	11	10	29
Perjury	0	3	11	15	44
Riot, &c	0	0	3	7	10
Surety of the peace	47	23	25	63	158
Violation of liquor laws	165	68	51	77	361
Other misdemeanors	22	27	20	33	102
Total	554	381	423	665	2,023

A glance at the table will show that there were comparatively very few crimes of a serious character. The list is made up mainly of petty larcenies, assaults and batteries, desertion, false pretenses, surety of the peace, violation of the liquor law, &c. Of the whole number, 2023, not one-fourth were of a serious character. Even of the larceny cases, many were of an exceedingly trifling nature, especially the cases of larceny by bailee. And more than one-fourth of the whole number were so trifling that the grand jury ignored the bills. The following table shows the number ignored by the grand jury, or not-prossed without going before the grand jury.

Ignored by the grand jury or not-prossed:

	Dec.	M'ch	June	Sept.	Total
Assault and battery	22	24	37	64	147
Larceny	19	26	25	46	116
Liquor cases	29	19	38	53	139
Other cases	34	34	50	73	191
Total	104	103	150	235	593

To this list ought to be added the 158 cases of surety of the peace. They do not go before the grand jury. Yet nine out of ten of them should never be sent up to court. The magistrates seem to act on the theory that if they cannot make anything else out of the fracas or quarrel between two parties, they can bind them both over to appear at court on a charge of surety.

SAMPLE CASES.

The large majority of all these trifling cases are among the poorer classes of society, who can ill afford to spare the time to attend court, and are less able to pay the inevitable costs in the end. They suffer unnecessarily and severely from the vicious practice of some magistrates in making as many cases as possible out of the same fracas. There will be one information for malicious mischief, another for assault and battery and another for surety of the peace, all based on the oath of the same witness, and all three cases taxed with the same bill of costs. And frequently the defendant is encouraged to bring cross-suits so as to get his way before the court. Take the case of mere samples of many others. A man and woman had a quarrel about a clothes line. In the scuffle they pushed each other. The man sued the woman before an alderman for disorderly conduct, who fined her ten dollars and costs. She then sued him for assault and battery, and he cross-fired with a suit of assault and battery against her. Each got a verdict of conviction before an alderman, and two suits in court, costing both of the parties some forty dollars. Two women had a quarrel about their children, used bad words and shook their broomsticks at each other. The magistrate sent both up to court for assault and battery, each was thrown into costs, and neither had a cent with which to pay.

This practice of sending trifling cases to court and multiplying informations and indictments, is not only oppressive to parties, but expensive to the county. Besides paying the costs in such cases where the parties cannot, the county has to always pay the costs in larceries and other felonies, and the expense of keeping the prisoners in jail. Take the following as illustrations: Two men broke open a chest and stole a lot of mine-mason tools, all not worth, perhaps, twenty dollars. But they belonged to different workmen, one owning a chisel, another a hammer, &c. Eight informations were returned to court and eight indictments found against the party for receiving stolen goods, although the prosecutors were the same. Some of the larceny cases are cruelly unjust, and the great expense of the charge and the difficulty of obtaining bail, great hardships are experienced often by the poor. One man, on a charge of stealing the wooden handle of cooper's tool, worth, perhaps, ten cents, lay in jail two months before his trial and was then acquitted.

THE MAGISTRATE A BLESSING OR A CURSE.

I have estimated that not more than one-fourth of all the cases sent up to court were of such a serious character as to justify their being returned to court. This was found by the Quarter Sessions. They ought to be settled before the magistrate, and not before the tribunal. Perhaps they could be settled by the magistrate if he would exercise forbearance and give the parties timely judicious advice. In most of cases the parties go to the magistrate for advice. A good magistrate is a great blessing in a community; a bad one is a great curse. Encouraging prosecutions, and returning large fees, are, I am sorry to say, too often the case. Cases that ought to be settled before him, is a great part of the time, suffer unnecessarily and even compelled to go to court, does not any more than one-fourth of the whole number were so trifling that the grand jury ignored the bills. The following table shows the number ignored by the grand jury, or not-prossed without going before the grand jury.

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